



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

April 2013

tehcc.org

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From the Chair

April has several opportunities for the club (with more information provided later in the newsletter). Our dinner meeting is on April 19th with a program about the Roan Mountains. The Gear Swap is the following morning (April 20th) in the employee center parking lot on South Wilcox Drive; so clean out the garage/basement/attic/closet of idle outdoor equipment to sell or trade. Several day hikes are appearing on the calendar which support a partnership with Eastman Wellness. Regular trail maintenance outings are getting the path ready for increased use. And finally the APEs group is cross-listing some activities for paddling and backpacking. Hopefully, you can find something of interest to enjoy during this spring month.

Spring Dinner Meeting, Friday, April 19th, 2013

The coming of spring brings anticipation of outdoor activities, and also the TEHCC spring dinner meeting at the Eastman Lodge. Come fellowship with club members to see what everyone is up to these days.

Our evening program *"Roan Mountain; History of an Appalachian Treasure"* is by the author of a [2011 book](#) by the same title - Jennifer Bauer, who is the Park Manager of Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area. Learn more about the ecology, history, and preservation of a wonderful place dear to our hearts.

Event	Time	Details
Spring Dinner Meeting	5:30pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
Happy "Trails" Hour	5:30pm-6:30pm	Donations accepted for beer and wine, or BYOB
Dinner: Kabobs (Steak/Chicken) Baked Potato, Tossed salad, Roll, Cobbler, Tea/Coffee	6:30pm-7:15pm	Catered by Sugar & Spice Catering (\$12 per person)
Club Business	7:15pm-8:00pm	- Update of club activities - Awards
Special Program: Roan Mountain; History of an Appalachian Treasure	8:00pm-9:00pm	Jennifer Bauer

There is no charge for attending the program only, but if you would like to eat, please submit your reservation by end of Monday, April 15th. (Yes, when you get your taxes completed.) A reservation form is located at the [end](#) of this newsletter.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy Regional Partnership Meeting

Steve Perri reporting

Attendees: Steve Perri, Mary Fanslow, Vic Hasler

The meeting of the ATC southern partnership meeting was held in Hendersonville, NC, March 15-17. This is an annual meeting where members of the ATC partnership, consisting of federal agencies, ATC and trail maintaining clubs, come together to discuss management issues, past accomplishments, and future issues affecting the partnership. Trail clubs from northern Virginia to Georgia are represented in the forum.

Among the focused discussions over the weekend was the future of Konnarock and how it might be changed to become more effective. Currently Konnarock runs 12 weeks and costs approximately \$157,000/year. Over the past 30 years, it has been the flagship for ATC for recruiting volunteers to provide trail-building assistance to the Trail clubs. TEHCC has been vocal in expressing concern that Konnarock isn't as effective in building trail as it used to be, coming up short annually in miles of completed trail. Other clubs expressed concern that the cost to support Konnarock has increased and there may be ways to make it more cost efficient. Friday night we discussed the past history of Konnarock and Saturday a breakout session was held to capture potential changes and opportunities. Over the next few months and into next year, ATC will consider making some changes and assess opportunities for improvement.

Saturday morning was mostly devoted to agency, ATC and club reports. ATC is undergoing reduced funding levels and changes in staffing. COO Steve Paradis will leave ATC April 1 to re-enter the public work force. Due to the sequestration, ATC's new Park Manager Wendy Jansen was unable to attend. Also the A.T. MYLE (Millennial Youth Led Expeditions) may not happen next year because the major sponsor has been lost and the group no longer has resources for planning. Within the USFS, changes due to the sequestration are not yet apparent, as the USFS doesn't like to predict the sequestration's impact. But many partners did not come due to travel restrictions. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM NP) expects to close 5 campgrounds and conduct across the board cuts due to the sequestration; but back-country resources will stay intact. The GRSM NP instituted permit fees for thru-hikers passing through the park. The attendees felt that the fee permit system for thru-hikers is working okay; there have been no complaints. However, ATC needs to develop a formal policy regarding access fees for the AT. Another recent change is that Andrew Downs will be transferring to the Blacksburg office as the new regional director, April 1. This is good news for Andrew, but more work for Morgan's office until he hires a replacement. The Smoky Mountains Hiking Club was honored with the George Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer group for renovating the 12 GRSM shelters. TEHCC was highlighted several times by ATC and USFS as a model for planning Konnarock, leveraging non-traditional volunteers, and accomplishing a great deal with over 13,000 volunteer hours.

On Saturday afternoon, the Southern regional management committee met to discuss issues relevant to the GA, NC and TN trail clubs. Lenny Bernstein reviewed the status of the biennial conference. Registration opens April 15th. Bill Van Horn is the new Regional Partnership Committee chair and Jim Reel the Vice Chair. Morgan reminded clubs that new projects should be submitted to the partnership for approval, and projects that fall under the capital plan should be included. The ATC trail communities program is growing with 15 trail communities and 17 ambassadors in the south. Morgan reviewed a few tracts of land that were still outstanding for acquisitions. TEHCC had two tracts near Hump Mountain and one near Watauga Lake. Konnarock restructuring will be a continuing dialog over the next year, so stay tuned.

Additional news: The VARO (Virginia Regional Office) committee unanimously approved the request by MRATC and TEHCC to transfer TEHCC's section 1 to MRATC. This request originated last year by MRATC, and TEHCC agreed that it made sense to do so. TEHCC was motivated to do this to simplify our reporting structure, to report through one regional partnership committee rather than two. So the northern boundary for TEHCC is now the TN/VA state line and is no longer the post office in Damascus.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy Selects Community Ambassadors for Unicoi County, Tennessee

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) has selected Janet Hensley and Rob Martin to serve as volunteer ambassadors to the designated Appalachian Trail Community™ of Unicoi County, Tennessee. Both will serve as community liaisons to the ATC and the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club to encourage volunteerism and stewardship of the Trail at the local level. This year there are 16 ambassadors serving 14 different communities along the Appalachian Trail.

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

Hensley has been involved with the A.T. in Unicoi County for a number of years as the owner of one of the town's hiker hostels and as the coordinator of A.T. Summit Seminars, meant to generate greater understanding and positive relationships between hikers and the local business community. This is Hensley's second year serving as a Unicoi County A.T. Ambassador.

"I am very interested in being able to work more closely with my community here in Unicoi County to promote the Appalachian Trail and to encourage others to get involved," said Hensley. "I have always felt that we have some great resources in the people of this area and it is very rewarding to be part of a program designed to get them involved."



Janet Hensley, Ambassador to Unicoi County



Rob Martin, Ambassador to Unicoi County

Martin graduated from East Tennessee State University with a Masters Degree in Computer Science. He is an ATC member and a Life Scout in Boy Scouts of America. As an A.T. Community™ Ambassador, he plans to volunteer his time maintaining the Trail and providing support to hikers. As an avid outdoorsman, Martin frequently hikes along the A.T. and kayaks on the Nolichucky River.

The Appalachian Trail Community™ program is designed to recognize communities that promote and protect the A.T. Towns, counties, and communities along the A.T.'s corridor are considered assets by A.T. hikers and many of these towns act as good friends and neighbors to the Trail. The program serves to assist communities with local initiatives such as sustainable economic development through tourism and outdoor recreation, while preserving and protecting the A.T. Since the program's inception in 2010, 28 communities have been designated with 5-10 communities expected to be entered into the program in 2013.

Veterans Offered Full Scholarship and Support to Hike Appalachian Trail

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), in partnership with Warrior Hike, Operation Military Embrace, the Military Family Lifestyle Charitable Foundation, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association, has launched a new initiative called the "Walk Off the War" program. This program will provide 13 military veterans the opportunity to reconnect with the United States in a uniquely physical and psychological way – a fully funded scholarship to hike the Appalachian Trail (A.T.).

The objective of this program is to provide these veterans a self-directed, self-paced journey along the A.T. Hiking the Trail provides the opportunity to eliminate the negative effects of the war, through walking in nature, engaging with other hikers and experiencing the hospitality of the Trail towns along the A.T. In the end, the goal is to return these soldiers back into civilian society with the greatest opportunity for success in their personal and professional lives.

All participating veterans are not required to hike the entire A.T., but rather experience the physical, psychological and spiritual benefits of the Trail.

"Similar to Earl Shaffer, the first A.T. thru-hiker, these veterans will have the opportunity to journey along the Appalachian Trail and experience firsthand the benefits of retreating back into nature," stated Rich Daileader, former thru-hiker and board member of the ATC. "The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is proud to partner up with Warrior Hike and several other Military and Veteran organizations to offer this incredible experience to our military veterans."

The program will provide full scholarships to equip and support 13 military veterans. The first group of veterans began their journey on March 17th in Springer Mountain, Georgia. The rest of the veterans will begin their hike by April 15th.

The ATC, trail maintaining clubs along the A.T. and veterans groups in various "trail towns" will provide the veterans, who may travel alone or in small groups, with ancillary support services. This may include hosting a hiker or arranging transportation.

Two of the driving forces behind this initiative are Captains Sean Gobin and Mark Silvers, two Marines that upon returning from Afghanistan in 2012, hiked the A.T. to help purchase adapted vehicles for seriously wounded veterans. They are also the co-founders of Warrior Hike, a non-profit organization geared to raise funds for wounded veterans.

This year's group of veterans includes Adam Bautz, Rob Carmel, Steve Clendenning, Stephanie Cutts, Dick Erwin, Gary Ewin, Chris Galemore, Thomas Gathman, William Guill, Jeff Harper, Kevin Reed, Sharon Smith, and Cody Umphress.

This event is sponsored by 2Toms, Adventure Medical Kits, Ahnu, Antigravity Gear, Backcountry Edge, The Earl Shaffer Foundation, Easton Mountain Products, Good Sports, Granite Gear, Katadyn, Kelty, Leki, L.L. Bean, McKee Foods, Off Grid Expeditions, Railriders, Sawyer, The A.T. Guide, and Wise Company.

For more information about this program visit: www.appalachiantrail.org/events or www.walkoffthewar.com.

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
April 5-7	Lake Santeetlah Paddle/Camp	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
April 14	F/B: Phipps Bend Trail	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
April 19	Spring Dinner Meeting	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
April 20	3 rd Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools	Kim Peters Joe DeLoach	423-366-0128 423-753-7263
April 20	TEHCC 3 rd Outdoor Gear Swap	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
April 21	F/B: Bays Mountain Park – Leader’s Choice to Antennas	Barry Griggs	423-239-5676
April 27	A.T. Maintenance with ASU Trail Crew	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
April 28	F/B: Laurel Run Park	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854 or 423- 956-1822
May 4	Spring Wildflower Hike - Beartown Mountain	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
May 17-19	34th Anniversary Bluestone River Trip	Terry Dougherty	423-502-5177
May 19-20	Annual Hard Core Event	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
May 25	APEs and TEHCC Swiftwater Rescue Refresher Course	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
May 30	Paddle to the Grill	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636

Details on Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

Most Tuesdays: Weekly A.T. 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 7:30 to 9:00 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!

Leaders: [Kim Peters](#), atmaint@tehcc.org, 423-366-0128, [Joe DeLoach](#), joedelo@eastman.com

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 water bars and painting blazes. All tools will be furnished and no prior experience required! Contact [Kim](#) or [Joe](#) for details and meeting time and place.

Scheduled Events

Lake Santeetlah Paddle/Camp, Robbinsville, NC, April 5 – 7, 2013

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

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

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

Map: http://grahamchamber.com/maps/800maps/LakeSant_2011.gif

F/B: Phipps Bend Trail, Sunday April 14, 2013

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

The Sunday afternoon hikes are to help you discover the lesser known walking paths around the area. The Phipps Bend industrial park has an old gravel roadway along the Holston River which is open to folks to hike, bike, or ride horses. The surrounding area has been designated a nature preserve with wetlands full of waterfowl – and deer. This hike will follow the roadway roughly three miles around, and then return. There are a half dozen traditional geocaches to find, if interested. Bring water, snack, sun/bug protection, comfortable footwear, and maybe binoculars or camera to see more wildlife. For kids, bicycles are an option – although there are some potholes which could be filled with water if a recent rain. Hikers can either meet at 1:30PM in the parking lot below the Colonial Heights McDonalds to carpool – or in the parking area in Phipps Bend by 2PM. We should be back in Kingsport by late afternoon. Please call or e-mail the hike leader to coordinate carpooling.

3rd Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools! April 20, 2013

Leader: [Kim Peters](#) (423-366-0128), [Joe DeLoach](#) (423-753-7263)

For the April 3rd Saturday Hiking with Tools trip we plan to work on the section of trail south of US 421 towards Double Springs Shelter. We will be doing annual spring maintenance tasks such as cleaning out waterbars, clipping back plant growth and clearing blowdowns. This is a 3.5 mile section which we can work as an in and out hike or continue on from Double Springs Shelter for another 3 miles to Cross Mountain. The latter would require a short shuttle. All tools will be provided and no experience is necessary! Please contact one of the leaders if you have any questions and to let us know you are coming so we can have enough tools.

TEHCC 3rd Outdoor Gear Swap, April 20, 2013, 8 AM to Noon

Contact: [Tim McClain](#) (423-239-5353)

An outdoor gear swap will be held on Saturday, April 20th, 2013 from 8AM to noon in the parking lot of the Eastman Toy F. Reid Employee Center located at 400 South Wilcox Drive in Kingsport. The event is being sponsored by the TN Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club to give folks a chance to trade, buy, and sell surplus equipment. Think backpacking, biking, camping, canoeing, climbing, fishing, hiking, kayaking, paddling, skiing, and snowboarding. Do you have a “no longer used but in good condition” external frame pack, and need a water filter? Then come find someone who can use your pack and someone who has a water filter for you. And while you’re at it, talk about the gear and swap a couple of stories. For more information, go to <http://tehcc.org/news/gearswap/>.

F/B: Bays Mountain Park – Leader’s Choice to Antennas, Sunday April 21, 2013, 1:30 – 4:30 PM

Leader: [Barry Griqqs](#) (423-239-5676 or 423-384-6642)

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

You’ve seen them from Kingsport – the antennas up on Bays Mountain. Now imagine the view of looking back down into the city from the base of the towers. It’s leader’s choice of which trails to take based on group preference. Possible routes could involve Bays Mountain Road, Azalea Trail, Lake Road, and/or Chestnut Trail. Meet at 1:30 PM in the parking lot of the Eastman Lodge and we’ll carpool to the top to begin our hike. I have a season pass so can get my carload in on that. We should be done by 4:30 PM. Bring water, snack, and comfortable footwear. For more information, check the club’s trail wiki or call the hike leader. Call the hike leader prior to the hike to confirm participation.

F/B: Laurel Run Park, Sunday April 28, 2013

Leader: [Garry Luttrell](#) (423-239-9854 or 956-1822)



This hike is a two mile (round trip) walk up to a pair of waterfalls. The water flow should be excellent; however, there is one bridgeless creek crossing to navigate – maybe on stepping stones. Wildflowers should be in full bloom, so don’t forget your camera (we’ll make frequent stops for pictures). Meet at 1:30 PM at Bldg. 310 Recreation Center on Wilcox Drive or at 2:00PM at the Laurel Run Park trailhead. A hiking stick might be useful. We should be done by late afternoon. Please call the hike leader beforehand, so that we know to expect your company.

Spring Wildflower Hike - Beartown Mountain, Saturday, May 4, 2013

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

It’s nice to couple a walk with pretty wildflowers with a project where our Club greatly improved a section of the Appalachian Trail, and that’s what we’ll do with this year’s Spring Wildflower Hike. A trail that gains over 600’ per mile can be classified as steep, and the section from Hughes Gap to Beartown Mountain used to gain 1400’ in the 1.3 mile climb up Beartown Mtn. Not only was it tough to climb, but it could be dangerous to descend, and the most common response we received when we were planning the

project was "please do that." Work by our club volunteers, Hard Core, the Konnarock Crew, and student groups at least doubled the length but resulted in a much more sustainable and safer grade. Now hikers can enjoy climbing the side of Roan Mtn through rich woods, culminating in 5481' Beartown Mtn. We'll get some views and may stroll an extra 0.4 miles to lovely Ash Gap, the start of where we'll be working with Hard Core this year on the remaining steep climb of Roan. The overall length of around 6 miles may be a bit much for very young children, but we'll take it slow and enjoy being in these nice woods; so this is definitely a family-friendly hike. Please contact Joe for more information or if you'd like to come.

Bluestone River Trip, May 17-19, 2013

Leader: Terry Dougherty (423-502-5177)

The annual Bluestone River Trip (34th Anniversary) is scheduled for May 17-19, 2013. We will stay at the beautiful Pipestem State Park (Mountain Creek Lodge). Our trip leader has reserved a block of rooms, please call 800-CALL-WVA (ask for Pipestem State Park / Mountain Creek Lodge) and reserve your room for Friday and Saturday. We plan to paddle the scenic Bluestone River both days. This is a class II+ trip the first day and class I the second day. You can skip the second day, if you like. Other options include family camping at the state park campground and / or driving up on Saturday morning. This is a GREAT trip with a lot of family fun, scenic river and very nice lodging. In addition to the paddling, Ed Montgomery will once again be in charge of HAPPY HOUR on Saturday night and is going to make this one special. Please contact the trip leader (Terry Dougherty, 423-502-5177), if you are planning to attend the trip.

Annual Hard Core Event, May 19 and 20, 2013

Leader: [Carl Fritz](#) (423-477-4669) or [Kim Peters](#) (423-366-0128)

Our 13th annual Hard Core event will take place on Sunday and Monday. As usual we will recruit up to 50 current hikers and 50 alumni hikers at Damascus Trail Days. The hikers will be departing Damascus early Sunday morning. The work site will be in White Rocks Mountain which is about 2.5 miles trail south of Dennis Cove. We will be relocating a very steep and rocky trail section by adding several switchbacks. On Monday a smaller portion of the crew will be working at Little Rock Knob to relocate another steep and rocky section. The majority of the crew will be working just above Ash Gap and they will be entering from Cloudland. Volunteers are needed each day: in leading small teams or just working with the hikers; transporting hikers from Damascus on Sunday, and to and from work sites on Monday; and transporting or distributing tools. If you are interested in helping in some manner, please contact one of the leaders.

APes and TEHCC Swiftwater Rescue Refresher Course, May 25, 2013

Contact: [Scott Fisher](#) (276-698-4644)

Whitewater enthusiasts participate in hazardous activities in wilderness environments. Are you prepared to rescue yourself or your best paddling friend? Are they prepared to rescue you? Help in many cases may not be immediately available, and might be hours, not minutes away. If you've already had the Basic Swiftwater Rescue Class and are looking to tune up the skills that will help keep you and those you care about safe, this is your chance.

Your instructor, Scott Fisher, is an ACA certified advanced swiftwater rescue and advanced whitewater kayak instructor and has provided instruction to hundreds of individuals, including paddlers, outfitter guides, firefighters, rescue personnel and staff of youth camps.

For more information about the course, including cost and how to register, please visit regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities. **The registration deadline is May 18, 2013.**



For the Record

Rental Equipment Checkout, March 14, 2013

Vic Hasler reporting

The annual review of the club's camping equipment was held during lunchtime recently. Thanks to Barry Griggs, Brien Lewis, and Tim McClain, the condition of many, but not all, active tents was checked. Three tents were pulled out of service. HT-2 (MSR Mutha Hubba 3) has a sticky fly to be addressed. HT-26/27 tents, the big six-person A-frames, are being replaced with one new REI Kingdom 6 tent approved for purchase by the Steering Committee. A change in our policy for tent stakes is recommended. Three tents (HT-2, HT-12, and HT-18) have their own set of light-weight stakes which should remain with the bag; otherwise, the tent stakes need to be returned separate for the general stock. All backpacks and sleeping pads were again found to be in good shape. If you see any problems with the club equipment or have suggestions on future purchases, please let Rental Equipment Coordinator Terry Dougherty know.

F/B: Hiking the Warriors' Path SP Mountain Bike Trails, Sunday, March 17, 2013

Tim McClain reporting

The weather cooperated nicely and we had a good turnout for the first in this year's series of Sunday hikes. This hike was held at the Warriors Path State Park on the mountain bike/hiking trails located off Buttermilk Road at the end of Freeman Road. We started with about a 2-mile hike on the trail named "Darwin's Revenge." After a short break back near the parking area, we tackled "The Boneyard," another 2-mile trail. Both of these trails wind through wooded areas with fairly gentle elevation changes and lots of switchbacks. "Boneyard" especially has some really nice elevated views of the lake. One of the vistas is located directly across the lake from Warriors Path soccer fields and Duck Island. After "Boneyard," we took the Lake Road back up to the parking area for a total distance of about 5 miles. Participants on this St. Patrick's Day parade through the woods were: Serita Blankenbecler, Pam Honeycutt, Judy Johnson, Eric Kniedler, Jeanne Kniedler, Tim McClain, Peggy McClain, and Gerald Scott.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 2/23/2013

Purpose: Invasive Plant Eradication

Location: Section 12d, Between Isaac Cemetery and High Point

People: Joe DeLoach, Ben Firth, Dan Firth, Greg Kramer, Lealand LaPoint, Rob Martin, Steve Perri, and Kim Peters

Summary: The Cherokee National Forest, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, and ATC have been collaborating on interest in and funding for open area management. A series of work trips to clear areas between 19E and Bitter End have been proposed, with a goal of improving habitat for the golden-winged warbler, a species of concern. This first outing, which was postponed from February 16, got off to a slow start. We did not work in an open area on the A.T. (such as Bishop Hollow or High Pointe); but instead, worked on an overgrown patch of kudzu and multiflora rose that could not be envisioned as being transformed into an open area. Thanks to the good turnout we cleared about an acre, and thanks to Kim's recommendation Joe got his truck unstuck.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 2/23/2013

Purpose: Clear water bars and blowdowns

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

People: Ted Malone, Steve Wilson

Summary: We cleared leaves and mud from the eleven water bars from McQueen's Gap to Abingdon Gap shelter, and removed one blowdown with a hand saw and an axe. The shelter looked good except for a small leak in the back left due to a loose nail which we hammered down. We left the new shelter log. The shelter has a good shovel, but needs a new broom. On our way out we noticed some blowdowns close to the road on the next section south. We used a chainsaw to clear two blowdowns in the first quarter-mile of that section.

Reporting: Bill Fuller

Date: 2/24/2013

Purpose: Scout trail and cut limbs

Location: Section 9a, US321 to Pond Flats

People: Bill Fuller

Summary: I hiked the entire section and cut numerous low hanging limbs and also cleared a few small blowdowns. I have a few blazes left to paint near the bottom of the mountain, but overall this section is in good shape.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 2/24/2013

Purpose: Check trail for blowdowns

Location: Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot

People: Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We removed several small trees and a large number of branches from the trail and picked up three bags of trash. We now have 13 large trees to be removed by chainsaw.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 2/24/2013

Purpose: Scout for blowdowns and remove if possible

Location: Section 16a, Trail 1/2 mile trail-north of Greasy Creek Gap

People: Jim Foster

Summary: I walked the trail from Iron Mountain Gap to about one-half mile north of Greasy Creek Gap. I was able to remove all but one low-lying branch and open the trail. I lost a small nut that holds my saw blade on and had to suspend the operation. I also cleared trail back to Iron Mountain Gap by hand. The trail is clear with a couple of blowdowns that aren't blocking the trail.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 2/24/2013

Purpose: Maintain section

Location: Section 13a, US19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: Becky and I walked in about one mile. Becky sawed three blowdowns while I cut back various rhododendron bushes and greenbriar. There are two big blowdowns about 3/4 mile in from the highway that will require a chainsaw. One tree is about 10 inches in diameter and the other is 30 plus. We picked up many tin cans and trash along the trailhead.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 2/25/2013

Purpose: Pisgah National Forest Revision Plan Public Meeting

Location: Mars Hill, NC

People: Steve Perri

Summary: I attended the USFS Pisgah National Forest Revision Plan meeting which the USFS conducts about once in 10 years to discuss possible changes to forest management. This was the first of two assessment meetings where the USFS gets ideas and suggestions from the public on how the forest is being managed for economics, cultural heritage, recreation, and conservation. Representing TEHCC, I provided feedback on how users benefit from having access to the forest. The next meeting will be Saturday, July 20th. Starting this fall, the development phase of the process will begin which will involve another four or so meetings to complete the process through the end of 2015.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 2/25/2013

Purpose: Assess section and remove blowdowns

Location: Section 9b, Hampton Trailhead to Horse Ridge Gap

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I removed three blowdowns, and cut two large blowdowns enough to create reasonable step-overs. I also did some trail rehab and cut woody growth.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: 2/25/2013

Purpose: Measure relocation on Jones Branch

Location: Section 19b, Nolichucky River NOC and Jones Branch

People: Collins Chew, Charlotte Chew

Summary: Charlotte and Collins Chew measured and mapped the relocation from NOC's Nolichucky Outpost up Jones Branch. The relocated trail reduces mileage by 0.4 miles and is 0.3 miles long.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 2/27/2013

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and clear trail obstructions

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

People: John Beaudet, Jim Foster

Summary: John and I completed what I started Monday, and with his help we were able to clear all blowdowns and clear all obstructions from this section of the trail. Howard and Mike have been notified that as of today their section is completely free of all obstructions.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 2/27/2013

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and clear the trail of obstructions

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

People: John Beaudet, Jim Foster

Summary: John and I started cutting blowdowns and lopping at Hughes Gap and finished my whole section. There are currently no blowdowns or obstructions on the section.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 3/2/2013

Purpose: Maintain section

Location: Section 14b, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap

People: Richard Carter, Jeff Sanders

Summary: We checked the section for blowdowns, sawed two and removed several other small ones, lopped a number of obtruding limbs, removed trash from Stan Murray shelter, and left a new shelter register.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 3/3/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and woody growth

Location: Section 9b, Hampton Trailhead to Pond Flats

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I cleared two A.T. blowdowns and one 12-inch pine blowdown on the Hampton Blue Blaze. I also lopped rhodos from the Hampton Trailhead to Pond Mountain. The Trail is currently clear in this section.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 3/8/2013

Purpose: Clear downed trees from trail

Location: Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot

People: John Beaudet, Jim Foster, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We removed 19 trees from the trail. The snow was up to 12 inches deep in places. A beautiful day.

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: 3/9/2013

Purpose: Clear trail

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

People: Bill Berry, Ryan Berry

Summary: We cleared blowdowns and cut annual growth.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 3/9/2013

Purpose: Clear water bars and cut blowdowns

Location: Sections 3a and 3b, McQueen's Gap to Low Gap (Hwy 421)

People: Tim McClain, William C. "Cham" McMillin, Steve Wilson

Summary: We maintained Sections 3a and 3b by removing blowdowns and cleaning water bars. Several blowdowns were removed with a chainsaw; including the 30" diameter fallen tree which was previously reported. We lost count of the number of blowdowns, but consumed four tanks of chainsaw gas during the 6-hour hike. Several water bars were cleared, but the snow on the trail, up to 8-inches, made some of them hard to find. The sleeping platform in the small emergency shelter (the Holiday Inn) near McQueen's Gap is sloping badly and needs some attention. Steve plans to revisit and assess the problem when it is not snow covered.

Reporting: Becky Kinder, Gayle Riddervold

Date: 3/9-10/2013

Purpose: Check the trail for blowdowns

Location: Section 13a, US19E to Doll Flats

People: Becky Kinder, Gayle Riddervold

Summary: Becky and I walked up to Dolls Flats and cut down various blowdowns, trimmed back more rhododendrons and sawed overhanging limbs on the trail. We counted a total of 6 big blowdowns which will require a chainsaw plus one large tree that was hanging over a rock cliff, ready to fall onto the trail in the event of high winds.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 3/10/2013

Purpose: Hike and compile trail data

Location: Spivey Gap to Dennis Cove Road

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I hiked from Spivey Gap to Dennis Cove Road to compile information for this 84-mile section of trail. I compiled info and photos for the entire section to include shelters, foot bridges, blowdowns/obstructions, and other structures. I am preparing a written and comprehensive report that will be ready next week.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 3/12/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 19b, Nolichucky River, just above new relocation heading up Jones Branch

People: Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

Summary: Some of the largest trees on our section are up Jones Branch, above the Nolichucky River. Unfortunately some are succumbing to the hemlock woolly adelgid and old age, which not only takes away from the feeling of a primeval forest, but also makes for difficult Trail maintenance. Two of our members reported a 24-inch downed hemlock tree on Sunday, and it was a significant obstruction. Though not exactly through finesse and precision, we cut and cleared it.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 3/13/2013

Purpose: Maintain shelter

Location: Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter

People: Lynn DiFiore

Summary: I attempted a trip to do routine maintenance on my section, but the amount of snow present on Roaring Creek only allowed me to get near the bottom gate. I was able to make it to the barn and place the new broom, shovel and register and remove large quantities of trash. I saw one day hiker who came up from Roaring Creek and quickly went back down.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 3/13/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 20b, Between Flattop Mountain Road and Oglesby Branch

People: Lynn DiFiore, Joe DeLoach

Summary: Our section maintainers for the Spivey Gap - Temple Hill Gap section reported two large blowdowns north of Oglesby Branch. Thanks to Lynn's sturdy vehicle, we made it up Forest Road 278 to the Trail crossing which made for quick access. Both were hardwoods more than the 18-inch diameter of my saw blade, but they were hollow and not so hard to cut, especially with a new chain.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 3/13/2013

Purpose: Open Areas Planning Meeting

Location: Watauga Ranger District Office, Unicoi

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: Representatives from ATC, the Cherokee and Pisgah National Forests, the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC), and TEHCC meet annually to review areas along the Appalachian Trail to be maintained as open lands. These include well known mountain balds such as Round Bald, Beauty Spot, and Max Patch, as well as smaller fields such as Doll Flats. Though uncertainty remains with sequestration, the funding picture looks much better for this fiscal year and next than it did last fiscal year. In addition to the areas above and some on the Carolina Mountain Club section, Hump Mountain, Bishop Hollow, High Point, along the Elk River, the Senter Tract south of Dennis Cove, the Osborne Tract on Cross Mountain, and the Berry Fields on Holston Mountain are all slated to receive funds from the National Park Service for management this year. Some other areas, such as Yellow Mountain Gap, Little Hump, and the Buchanan Tract near Beauty Spot Gap are mowed by state wildlife resource agencies, and SAHC does much mowing and cutting of small trees on Grassy Ridge and other parts of the Roan Highlands. The goats will be back on Jane Bald this summer. Lower priority areas for this year, but which we will raise in priority for next year, include the apple orchard north of Iron Mountain Gap, the Upper Laurel vista near Walnut Mountain Road, and the Canute Place on White Rocks Mountain. We hope to have two good years of treatment while pushing for more permanent funding.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 3/13/2013

Purpose: ATC Spring Partnership Meeting

Location: Watauga Ranger District Office, Unicoi

People: Morgan Sommerville, Andrew Downs, John Odell, Shawn Garrett, Cheryl Summers, Terry Bowerman, Gray Buckles, Matt Fusco, Dave McFee, Dave Ferguson, Paul Benfield, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Ed Oliver, Ted Mowry, Kim Peters, Vic Haler, Steve Perri

Summary: We conducted our spring partnership meeting with our ATC and USFS partners. Keith Kelly came to the beginning of the meeting and was introduced as the new district ranger to replace Don Palmer. Our club stats for 2012 were 13,858 hours with 485 volunteers. We had 246 new volunteers with 68% college students, 24% hikers and 8% others. We reviewed our work in 2012, working on relays on Pond Mountain and Bear Town Mountains. We dug about 2 miles of new trail and rehabbed 1.9 miles. We expect to work again this year on Bear Town up to Cloudland. We will use Konnarock and Hardcore for work between Greasy Creek Gap and Little Rock Knob. SAWS will be working near Turkey Pen Gap. We plan to do future ASU fall outings on Back Bone Rock blue-blaze trail. If funds are still available, we will work on the Koonford Bridge in September.

The USFS will plan a fall first-timer sawyer certification so that future recertifications can be done at the same time with the experienced sawyers. TEHCC will work to capture photos of bulletin boards/kiosks to give to the USFS to see if we can get new LNT info added to the kiosks. The Pisgah NF revision plan is underway and several future meetings will be held for more public input. Prescribed burns for this spring may occur near Back Bone Rock and Cross Mountain, depending on weather. ATC and TEHCC are interested in an orientation meeting with Keith and the new Forest Supervisor in April or May if that can be arranged.

ATC conducted the annual open areas management meeting this morning too. Funds for open areas were budgeted at \$45,000 this year. ATC had been budgeted an additional \$80,000 of Park Service funds, but it is uncertain whether the funds will be available due to the sequestration. Active areas of management for Golden Wing Warbler include Bishop Hollow, High Point, Issac's Cemetery, and

the Johnson Tract. Dozer work is planned for March 26-27th; Ed Oliver offered to assist to warn hikers of active work in Bishop Hollow. The goats will be on Roan again this year and hand mowing will be conducted on Grassy Ridge. ATC has approved funding of a Ridgerunner for the Roans. SAHC will be the administrative partner hiring and paying the employee; Chris Cox (ecologist) will have oversight from SAHC. ATC will post the opening and the partnership will be involved in selecting and training the employee. The opening will be posted in April so that the employee can be in the field late May through early August covering at least Thursday-Sunday. Having the employee wear a uniform with official patches will help bring a visible, official role to the employee. ATC's Community Ambassador's program has been very successful. Janet Hensley and Rob Martin are co-ambassadors for Unicoi Co. With agreement with the partners, active projects were identified to help focus the program.

Other Info: Snow in the high elevations will likely delay opening of the gates on roads. A new gate at Carvers Gap blends in with the design of the other infrastructure in the gap. The gate will likely be opened on Memorial Day. Work at the Max Patch parking area will temporarily close the parking lot April 15-May 6.

Next Meeting: October 16th in Appalachian Ranger District Office in NC near Woodfin.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 3/15/2013

Purpose: ATC Southern Regional Partnership Meeting

Location: Hendersonville, NC

People: Steve Perri, Mary Fanslow, Vic Hasler

Summary: We attended the Southern Regional Partnership meeting in Hendersonville, NC, March 15-17. Trail clubs from VA to GA attended along with agency partners and ATC. We spent the weekend covering topics ranging from Konnarock to policy issues. Agency partners reported on happenings from 2012 and changes expected in 2013. For more detail, see the [write up](#) in this newsletter.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 3/15/2013

Purpose: Rehab trail, clear blowdowns

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Road to second vista

People: Bob Peoples, Jim Chambers, Tim Stewart, John Beaudet

Summary: Bob, Tim, John, and Jim worked on trail rehab south of Dennis Cove Road. They cleared blowdowns and put in some rock steps.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 3/15/2013

Purpose: Clip woody growth and repair treadway

Location: Section 10, Dennis Cove Road to High-Water Trail

People: Ed Oliver, Ted Mowery, Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder, Kim Peters

Summary: Ed and Ted removed a portion of a large root-ball from the trail and did some treadway repair while Becky, Gayle and Kim trimmed the rhodys and other woody growth all the way to the high-water trail junction.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 3/16/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdowns, maintain shelter

Location: Section 5, TN91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Joe DeLoach, Gerald Scott, Becky Kinder, Gayle Riddervold, Ken Buchanan, Kim Peters

Summary: For the first 3rd-Saturday Hiking with Tools trip of 2013, we hiked out to Iron Mountain Shelter from Cross Mountain on TN 91. Even though the weather report predicted mostly cloudy with 60% chance of rain, we were in the sun the whole time and it was a beautiful hike. Joe and Gerald cleared all the blowdowns along the way. Many thanks to them for toting the chainsaw nearly 10 miles and to Joe for cutting the blowdowns. Unfortunately, the new shovel that we brought, turned out to be an old shovel, which broke upon its first use. None the less, we used the two shovel portions to clean out the fire pit, dragging nine tarp loads of ashes into the surrounding woods to be scattered. We also removed two other fire pits, one right at the shelter and another 20 feet away. We removed one large bag of trash and left a new log book. The shelter still needs a new shovel and a broom, but otherwise is in much better shape than we found it. Joe cut up the numerous branches and logs that had been strewn all about into usable firewood lengths, which should make some thru-hikers very happy. All the major blowdowns have been removed on this section and the shelter is in good shape. A very fine Hiking-with-Tools trip!



Shelter in great shape ...with cut firewood!

Reporting: Carl Fritz, Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Date: 3/19/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 13a, US19E to Doll Flats

People: Carl Fritz, Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: Becky dropped Gayle and Carl off at Dolls Flats. Carl and Gayle walked northbound to start cutting blowdowns while Becky walked up from 19E southbound to join them. Carl used the chainsaw to clear about 7 blowdowns and one big tree hanging in the trail. The Trail is in good shape now with the exception of having to clear some rock steps and water bars.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 3/19/2013

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 11a, About a mile south of Dennis Cove

People: Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Matt Signore, Tim Stewart

Summary: This group continued some trail rehab mostly at the boulder area south of Dennis Cove.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 3/19/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdown

Location: Section 4b, About a mile north of TN-91

People: Ted Mowery, George Thorpe

Summary: Ted and George cut a blowdown north of the last stile on the Osborne property. They also helped at Dennis Cove.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 3/19/2013

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 15b, Hughes Gap to Beartown Mountain

People: Ed Oliver, Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

Summary: Two blowdowns were reported between Hughes Gap and Beartown Mtn, but we found and cleared at least 10. Additionally, we tossed, dragged and threw countless small limbs and branches off the trail. It was quite cold and windy on the North Carolina side of the ridge, but warm and sunny on the Tennessee side out of the wind, making for an interesting hike. We met four hikers, two day hikers, one thru-hiker and one section hiker. It was a good day to be out and this portion of the trail is now clear.



A job well done.

Reporting: Scott Vandam

Date: 3/20/2013

Purpose: General Maintenance

Location: Section 12a, Walnut Mountain Road to Bitter End

People: Scott Vandam

Summary: I removed a large locust blowdown with handsaw, cleaned campsites along the creek, and pulled garbage that had floated down the creek from along the creek bank. This section now fully open and in good condition ready for thru hikers

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 3/22/2013

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 9b, Hampton Trailhead to Pond Mountain

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I started the green-briar battle and performed other routine maintenance. I saw no thru-hikers; however, five ladies were nobo on a weekend outing. Great day.

Reporting: Gerald Scott

Date: 3/23/2013

Purpose: Trail and Shelter Maintenance

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

People: Gerald Scott, Harold Wexler, Stephen Stroupe

Summary: We cut back rhododendron drooping over the trail from winter storms, and cut and removed several blowdowns with the largest being 18 inches. Three blowdowns remain that require a chainsaw: a 30-inch, a 24-inch and a 14-inch. We cleaned waterbars and removed leaves and sticks from streams to improve drainage. We also maintained Mountaineer Falls shelter, the trail to the water source, and the tent camping areas. We picked up trash, removed fallen limbs, cleaned out the fire ring, swept the shelter and left a new log book. The Mountaineer Falls shelter sign needs to be replaced to reflect the removal of the Apple House shelter.

Reporting: Phyllis Cairnes

Date: 3/23/2013

Purpose: Shelter Maintenance

Location: Section 2b, Abingdon Gap shelter

People: Kim Peters, Phyllis Cairnes

Summary: We enjoyed walking a wonderfully clear trail from Low Gap to Abingdon Gap shelter (many blowdowns had been cut and cleared). There we picked up trash, shoveled out the fire ring, and replaced a broken broom with a new one. The log book had recently been replaced. The shelter was in generally good condition although the roof may still have a slight leak on the back left; someone had duct-taped black plastic to the leaking area inside. Not finding my lost blue bandana was the day's only disappointment!

Reporting: Becky Kinder

Date: 3/23/2013

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

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

People: Becky Kinder, Gayle Riddervold

Summary: Gayle and I cleaned at least 20 water bars and collected NEW trash at the 19E trail head.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 3/24/2013

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 4a, Double Springs Shelter to Low Gap

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: Having received reliable information regarding trail conditions between Double Springs Shelter and Low Gap (Rt 421), Carl Fritz authorized me to work that section this weekend. I removed a tremendous number of small blowdowns and large clusters of tree limbs that hikers were cutting new trail around. There are still six blowdowns that will require a chainsaw, but the worst two are located a relatively short hike south of Rt 421.

Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club
Spring Dinner Meeting
Friday, April 19th, 2013

Reservation Form

Fill out the form below and send it with a check payable to **Vic Hasler**.

Within Eastman send to:
Vic Hasler, Building 231

Outside Eastman send to:
Vic Hasler
106 Sandpiper Circle
Kingsport, TN 37663

There is no charge for those attending the program and NOT joining us for the meal.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Check and reservation form must be received by **Monday 4/15/2013**. (So that the caterer will have food for you!)

Names of all attending (*please print*)

Name(s):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Number of Meals: _____ x \$12.00 = \$ _____

Number attending without meal reservation: _____