



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

May 2013

tehcc.org

In this Issue

[From the Chair](#)

[Paul Benfield Receives 2012 Stan Murray Award](#)

[Trail Crew Provides Opportunities to Volunteer on the A.T.](#)

[TEHCC Receives Girl Scout 2012 Trefoil Award](#)

[Mount LeConte Lodge, Saturday-Sunday, July 13-14](#)

[SAHCC Celebrates Conservation Heroes at Allandale Mansion](#)

[TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)

[Event Schedule – Next Two Months](#)

[Details of Upcoming Events](#)

[For the Record](#)

[A.T. Maintenance Reports](#)

[TEHCC T-Shirt Order Form](#)

From the Chair

Management of the Appalachian Trail has been analogously called “a three-legged stool” with multiple partners each supporting the common mission. Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) provides the umbrella organization for the 31 individual Trail maintaining clubs, who are charged to “operate, develop, and maintain” the A.T. The National Park Service Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO) has the overall administration for the national scenic trail at the federal level. The land is “owned” by the United States Forest Service (USFS), locally the Cherokee and Pisgah National Forests, who actively manage this resource per their legal directives. In this area, the A.T. also passes through Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Watauga Dam Reservation. Interaction with multiple partners is a challenge and also a strength of this unique “cooperative management system” as it ensures a long-

term view is taken to balance the various wishes of the hiking community and public. We’re thankful for the skills and knowledge that each partner has, including all of the TEHCC membership, so that this arrangement functions.

Paul Benfield Receives 2012 Stan Murray Award

In recognition of his leadership for the club along the Appalachian Trail, Paul Benfield has been presented the TEHCC Stan Murray Award. Trail named “Sarg,” due to his prior position in the US Army, Paul thru-hiked the A.T. in 1995. With over 4,500 career hours given to the trail, Paul is known as a reliable maintainer as demonstrated by earning a whole rack of Konnarock shirts starting with 2001. In 2011, he was also recognized nationally with the President’s Volunteer Service Award.

Paul’s leadership is best demonstrated on the Appalachian Trail. He is not only an expert regarding the technical needs of trail building, but can also successfully convey that knowledge to others, such as students and hikers involved with college projects and Hard Core. The crews being led by Paul usually complete their designated section first, and then move on to help other groups with their efforts.



Paul is very creative. Whenever a technical trail building or special structure problem arises, the crews listen to Paul’s suggestions. One example was during repair of the Roan High Knob shelter. Some of the lower logs and supports were in bad shape. How are we going to get a solid support under the shelter? Paul quietly says that he thinks he can lift the entire side of the shelter. After finding the right rock and log, he creates a lever to raise the shelter up by standing on the log. Paul is also amazing at spotting locust trees useful for trail structures.

Finally, Paul is known as being an exceptional sawyer. In December 2006, Paul, along with Bruce Cunningham and Bill Elderbrock, headed out to clear blowdowns after some reported high wind damage. First they went to Hughes Gap to remove two tangles of seven or eight 12”-15” trees. Once done, they counted 38 trees had been cut up the hill. Then to make it an even more productive day, the group went to Watauga Lake to cut seven additional blowdowns, with the worst tangle being at the USFS gate. On another occasion on a March day in the upper 80’s before the leaves had come out, Paul and Joe DeLoach set out from Devils Creek Gap to remove what was stated as “a few” blowdowns between there and the Nolichucky River. The pair lost count after taking out 30 and



estimated that around 80-100 were cleared over a five mile stretch. Paul outlasted Joe to continue carrying and using the chainsaw until both finally cried “uncle” and called in the cavalry of Carl Fritz and Bruce Cunningham to rescue them at Temple Hill Gap. When not out on the trail, Paul is the only club member who can sharpen crosscut saws; thus TEHCC has been relying on him for years for this service.

The club is delighted to thank Paul for his exceptional expertise and crew leadership for the benefit of the Appalachian Trail and the local hiking community through the TEHCC Stan Murray Award.



Trail Crew Provides Opportunities to Volunteer on the Appalachian Trail

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) is seeking volunteers, 18 and over, to help maintain the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with the Smokies Wilderness Elite Appalachian Trail Crew (S.W.E.A.T.) this season. These positions are designed for experienced hikers who have a desire to work hard, live in the backcountry and have a great time with new friends.

The ATC’s S.W.E.A.T. Crew is a mobile crew, carrying all food, tools and camping gear into the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The crew focuses on the difficult Trail problems that occur in the backcountry with the tools they carry in and the materials that they find. Each crew works six days in the field repairing the Trail, building steps, and clearing the A.T. All food, lodging, equipment and transportation to and from the work site is provided.

“Joining the Appalachian Trail Conservancy’s SWEAT crew is a great opportunity to give back to the Appalachian Trail, make new friends, and create memories that will last a lifetime,” said Andrew Downs, regional director of the ATC.

Members of the S.W.E.A.T. crew arrive at ATC base camp the day before their crew session begins to meet the professional Crew Leaders, prepare for the work trip and check out any gear they need. The next day the crew enjoys a family-style breakfast and loads up in an ATC vehicle and drives to a nearby trail-head in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. After a challenging hike in, often up to 10 miles long and over 2,500 feet in elevation gain, the crew establishes the campsite they will work out of for the next five days. The crew repairs, reconstructs and maintains some of the most remote and beautiful sections of the A.T., often working at elevations of over 6,000 feet for the entire work week. The crew schedule is made up of 8 six-day sessions from June 8 until August 18.



Members of the S.W.E.A.T. Crew maintaining a section of the A.T.

For more information about ATC’s S.W.E.A.T. Crew program or to volunteer, visit <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/crews>.

TEHCC Receives 2012 Girl Scout Trefoil Award



The Girl Scout Council of the Southern Appalachians presented this award to TEHCC as thanks for assisting with the Great Girl Scout Hike. 2012 was the centennial anniversary of the U.S. Girl Scout movement, thus one of the celebrations was a challenge to hike on the Appalachian Trail. The club provided instruction regarding day hiking at two service unit meetings in Kingsport and Bristol, with recommendations for suitable short trips.

Mount LeConte Lodge, Smoky Mountains, Saturday-Sunday, July 13-14

For the past many years, the Hiking Club has organized a summer weekend trip to Mount LeConte Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This lodge (elevation 6593 ft) can only be reached by hiking trails. Supplies are brought in by llama train once a week. The hiking distance to the lodge is 5.5 to 7.8 miles one-way depending on the route. The package price this year is \$138.30 per person which includes supper on Saturday, lodging for the night, and breakfast on Sunday. We have four reservations in a five-person cabin (double bunk beds and a single). If you are interested in these reservations please contact Steve Falling, 423-239-5502, for availability. You must be a TEHCC member to participate in this outing. You can find out more about Mount LeConte Lodge at www.lecontelodge.com.

SAHC Celebrates Conservation Heroes at Allandale Mansion, May 16

On Thursday, May 16th, the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) will host a celebratory party, Appalachian Spring, at The Barn at Allandale Mansion from 6 pm to 8 pm, celebrating 39 years of conservation success. The event will feature dinner by Giuseppe’s Italian Restaurant and music by local artists Trae McMaken and Will MacMorran, as well as festive recognition of local conservation heroes. Click [here](#) for more information or contact Angela Shepherd, 828-253-0095 ext. 200.

New TEHCC T-Shirt Available

In time for the ATC Biennial meeting, TEHCC is offering a shirt featuring the club's patch.



A performance style t-shirt constructed of 5-ounce 95%/5% poly/spandex having a soft, cottony feel, but effective at wicking to stay dry. Loose athletic fit. Offered in men's and women's cuts. Click [here](#) for a printable order form or see the [last page](#) of this newsletter.

The **Deadline** for placing an order is Friday, **May 31st** so that the shirts are ready by late June.

Welcome

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Charles Dunn
Darla Dare
Terri Carvagno
Wayne Carr
Raymond Brown

John Robbins
Clarissa Tatum
Jamie Ghannt
Anna Hackler
Shane Hackler

Eric Barnes
Stephanie Clendennen
Lonny Finley
Amanda Finley
Betty Fite

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
May 11	Spring Wildflower Hike - Beartown Mountain	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
May 17-19	34th Anniversary Bluestone River Trip	Terry Dougherty	423-502-5177
May 17-19	Damascus Trail Days		traildays.us
May 19-20	Annual Hard Core Event	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
May 19	F/B: Kingsport Greenbelt from Exchange Place	Barry Griggs	423-239-5676 or 423-384-6642
May 26	F/B Hike: Little Stony Creek Falls – From the Top	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
May 30	Paddle to the Grill	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
June 1	Lower Watauga, Class I and II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
June 1-2	APE's & TEHCC Beginner Whitewater Kayak Course	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
June 8	APE's & TEHCC Swiftwater Rescue Refresher Course	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
June 28-30	APE's & TEHCC Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644

Details of 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!

Thursday Evenings During the Summer: Paddle to the Grill

Bring your recreation or touring kayak/canoe to meet with The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts & TN Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club. We will launch at 6:30 pm from "Davis Dock" located in Blountville & paddle to "Boone Docks Restaurant" located at Boone Lake Marina in Piney Flats for dinner & 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 & PFD's are mandatory.

Contact [Debbie Briscoe](#) , 423-534-3636 for more information.

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. **There will not be a 3rd Saturday trip in May as it is the day before our Hard Core Event.** Instead, spend Saturday at Trail Days in Damascus and come out on Sunday to work with Hard Core!

Bi-Weekly on Saturdays, Lower Watauga, Class I and II

We will launch from 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 or so and then we can go for Mexican Food in town.

Please be prepared for cold water and wear appropriate gear.

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

Scheduled Events

Spring Wildflower Hike - Beartown Mountain, Rescheduled for Saturday, May 11, 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.

Damascus Trail Days, May 17 - 19, 2013



Damascus is the home of the annual Trail Days festival, and is known as Trail Town USA due to the convergence of four scenic trails in the town, including the Appalachian Trail, U.S. Bicycle Route 76, The Iron Mountain Trail, and the Virginia Creeper Trail. The Trail Days festival is held around the middle of May each year and draws an excess of 20,000 tourists, making it the largest single gathering of Appalachian Trail hikers anywhere.

Festivities include a Hiker Parade, a Hiker Talent Show, Gear Auction, Music, Food, Crafts, Vendors and Workshops. Visit the [web-site](#) for a schedule and more information.

One workshop that may be of interest to club members is: [Finding American Chestnuts along the AT](#). This workshop will be conducted by Matt Brinckman and Katy McKune, regional science coordinators for The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF). It will be held Friday, May 17, 2013 at the Laurel Building. Classroom instruction will be 10:00-noon; outdoor exploration, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Participants will hear an update on the restoration of American chestnuts, learn distinguishing tree characteristics, be trained on how to report surviving trees along the Appalachian Trail, and see survivors in the Damascus area. Reporting surviving trees will contribute to understanding the status of remnants of a species that once played a key role throughout Appalachian forests before being devastated by a blight fungus. Participants will aid in the development of blight-resistant trees.

Annual Hard Core Event, May 19 - 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 depart from 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 relocate a very steep and rocky trail section by adding several switchbacks. On Monday a smaller portion of the crew will work at Little Rock Knob to relocate another steep and rocky section. The majority of the crew will work just above Ash Gap and will enter from Cloudland. Volunteers are needed each day: to lead small teams or to just work with the hikers; to transport hikers from Damascus on Sunday, and to and from work sites on Monday; and to transport or distribute tools. If you are interested in helping in some manner, please contact one of the leaders.

F/B: Kingsport Greenbelt from Exchange Place, Sunday, May 19, 2013, 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Leader: Barry Griggs (423-239-5676 or 423-384-6642)

How about a Sunday stroll in the park? It doesn't get much easier than this in Northeast Tennessee. Put down the newspaper, get off the couch and come with us to enjoy a walk along the Greenbelt. We'll meet at the gravel parking area on the left side of the road just before you get to the Exchange Place. This spot is the trailhead for that end of the Greenbelt. The trail starts out as a gravel road for roughly half mile, and then becomes asphalt the rest of the way. You can turn around whenever you like, but we plan to go five miles round-trip. Bring water and snacks if you like and wear comfortable footwear. Call the hike leader prior to the hike to confirm participation.

F/B Hike: Little Stony Creek Falls – From the Top, Sunday, May 26, 2013

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

More driving, but starting at the picturesque waterfall. As reported last year, some trail above the Hanging Rock Recreation Area has caved away, thus closing a short section. We can still experience this [favorite hike](#) by driving an extra 20 minutes along very winding VA72 onto gravel forest service roads to reach the upper parking lot. From there, we'll hike down the trail to see the upper (plunge) and middle (curtain) waterfalls and then double back to the parking lot. If there's time and interest, I would like to proceed north to check out part of the lesser used [Chief Benge Scout Trail](#) (CBST). Hike distance can be two (just the lower section) up to four miles total with CBST. Bring water, snack, comfortable walking shoes, bug spray, and towel if you plan on briefly wading at the falls. Walking on the CBST might involve some stream crossings without bridges, thus water shoes, if desired. Let's leave at 1PM from the parking lot below "McDonalds" (now being rebuilt) in Colonial Heights for the 75 minute drive. For further information, check the trail [wiki](#) links or call/e-mail the hike leader.

APes and TEHCC Swiftwater Rescue Refresher Course, June 8, 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 June 1, 2013.**



For the Record

F/B: Winged Deer Park, Thursday, March 28, 2013

Vic Hasler reporting

Delayed from a cold and rainy Sunday, a make-up date for this hike was planned for Thursday afternoon which was forecasted to be partly sunny with the high near 48°F. I ended up as the only participant which gave time to explore and map the entire 2-3 mile trail network for the trail wiki (see [Winged Deer Park](#)). Several varieties of early spring flowers were observed in the wood lot of this former farm. The park has also been aggressively dropping dead trees as many were observed along the paths.

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

Vic Hasler reporting

The "trail" at Phipps Bend is a jeep path that runs along the Holston River for three miles. It is one of the flattest hikes available in the region, thus really great for those just starting out or families with young children. The area has been designated as a nature preserve, where a deer, geese, "pheasant" (really a wood duck), rabbit, and long black snake were seen during the hike. The trail was shared with several horse riders – and one thrown shoe was found. The hike date was a bit early for most wildflowers, although some growing at what was probably a former homestead were enjoyed. Getting their exercise were Gerald Scott, Serita Blankenbecker, Sophia Bennett, Kay Gott, Jacqui Murdaugh, and Vic Hasler.

Bays Mountain Park to Antennas, Sunday, April 21, 2013

Barry Griggs reporting

We were blessed with a perfect day for our 5-mile hike to the antennas on Bays Mountain. We started at the Nature Center and ventured up the hill behind the Adventure Course to head out on Chestnut Trail, a relative new trail in the park. It winds along the hillside and connects with Azalea Trail which leads on up to the antennas. After a break to enjoy the view of Kingsport and to refuel, we headed back to the Nature Center via Azalea, Big Oak, Fern and Lakeside Trails. On our way out, we were fortunate to see park employees feeding the bobcat and otters. The park is really a treasure in this area and we should take full advantage to enjoy its beauty and see nature up close and personal. Hikers were: Kay Gott, Beverly Griggs, Denise Hardin, Jacqui Murdaugh, Denise Spears, Scott Thomsen, Gerald Scott, and Barry Griggs.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 3/29/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Sections 20a and 20b, Flattop Mountain Road to Nolichucky River

People: Lynn DiFiore, Joe DeLoach

Summary: A hiker in their online Trail journal reported, "The 11 miles from Spivey to the Nolichucky River had the worst blowdowns on the entire A.T." This dire warning prompted a walk-through with a handsaw. Thanks goes to Lynn for the shuttle up to Flattop Mountain Road. Though numerous, mostly small, obstructions were encountered and removed, the journal report was definitely an

exaggeration; northbound thru-hikers said the sections farther south were much worse. Maybe the hiker included the large trees that came down in past years, some of which caused us to make short reroutes. Though more work can be done, especially south of Temple Hill Gap, everything that was truly an obstruction was removed. There is a large blowdown at Temple Hill Gap that is easy to get through, as are a couple of large stepovers 0.25 miles on either side of the gap. I cut once to make clearing easier, but did not completely remove a couple of 6-8 inch trees about 0.75 miles north of No Business Knob Shelter. A third one there and one about 0.75 miles south of Temple Hill Gap are also that size, but are easy to step over. A large blowdown about a mile north of Temple Hill Gap is no problem to get over, and another large one about a mile south of the river can be bypassed without getting off the Trail. A large, full trash bag has been left hanging in a tree at the shelter.

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: 3/30/2013

Purpose: Clear trail

Location: Section 20b, From Spivey Gap to three miles north

People: Bill Berry, Ryan Berry

Summary: We worked on clearing the Trail.

Reporting: Kent Wilson

Date: 3/30/2013

Purpose: Check for blowdowns

Location: Sections 20a and 20b, Spivey Gap to Nolichucky River

People: Jenó Smith, Kent Wilson, Nancy Wilson

Summary: There were only three blowdowns, all easily stepped over or around. The first one was just north of No Business Knob Shelter. The second one was several trees, but a small path had been cut through it. The last one was about 0.75 miles north of Temple Hill a little before the downhill. This was the biggest one, but could be stepped over. There was lots of trash at the No Business Knob shelter. We had 2 large bags and 1 medium size bag of trash and there is some trash under the bed area that we couldn't get to very easily. We did cut out a few rhodies that were hanging over the trail and cleared some downed brush.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 3/30/2013

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 12b, North of Mountaineer Falls to south of Jones Falls

People: Richard Carter, Carl Fritz

Summary: We cut four blowdowns from Sugar Hollow Creek north and another four blowdowns to south of Jones Falls. This entire area is clear of obstructions including protruding rhodos. We tried to divert water at least temporarily from one wet area. There are four dead hemlocks at Mountaineer Falls Shelter that are considered hazard trees. It was a great spring day to be out.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 3/31/2013

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 14a, Buckeye Gap to Little Hump

People: Lynn DiFiore

Summary: There was too much snow/slush to get very far, but I was able to clean most waterbars and clear out several small trees and limbs that had fallen across the trail. I picked up trash from around the barn, and met two nobo thru hikers and one sobo section hiker who said the trail was mostly clear in both directions. We all agreed it is time for the snow to end!

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/3/2013

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 11a, About 3/4 mile south of Dennis Cove

People: Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Greg Williams

Summary: This crew continued to rehab up near the major rocks that the trail passes over. It is getting much better in this area, but more work remains.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 4/3/2013

Purpose: Take shovel and shelter log to shelter

Location: Section 16a, Clyde Smith Shelter to Greasy Creek Gap

People: Jim Foster

Summary: I took a new shovel and shelter log to the shelter. After delivering the articles I policed up around the shelter and walked the trail to Greasy Creek Gap cleaning water bars and doing some minor trail rehab.



Richard Carter near Mountaineer Falls Shelter

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 4/4/2013

Purpose: Take logbook out to shelter, inspect trail

Location: Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd

People: Mary Ellen Virost, Rick Virost, Kim Peters

Summary: We took a shelter log to Vandeventer shelter and inspected trail conditions along the way. There are lots of small trees down, but no major obstructions were found. There is one tree that is blocking the trail in such a way that treadway damage is occurring as hikers negotiate their way around it. I will try to get out soon to remedy that situation. The weather was the big event for the day. We started out in cool damp conditions, which changed to spitting rain and high winds as we climbed the ridge. Then the rain turned to freezing rain and sleet accompanied by high winds and it was very cold. The shelter quickly filled with thru-hikers after we arrived who were debating on whether to stay or push on to Iron Mtn Shelter. We picked up trash at the shelter with our wet frozen hands and were very thankful that we had warm beds to return to. On leaving the shelter we were bombarded with chunks of ice falling off the trees and more rain. There were many more trees bending over into the trail under the weight of the ice. It was quite an adventure!

Reporting: Kent Wilson

Date: 4/5/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdown and remove trash

Location: Sections 19a, Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap Shelter

People: Jeno Smith, Kent Wilson, Nancy Wilson

Summary: Jeno, Nancy and I were doing a hike from Indian Grave Gap to the river. It was 34° when we started out (about 40° in Erwin), and there was an inch or so of ice for the first couple miles. A blowdown (ice down) blocked the trail about 0.75 miles south of Indian Grave Gap, which Jeno and I cleared. Nancy and I picked up two bags of trash; one from the shelter and one from a campsite a little before the railroad tracks.



Clearing an "ice down"

Reporting: Alice Faye Guinn

Date: 4/5/2013

Purpose: Clear reported blowdown

Location: Section 16b, Apple Orchard

People: Howard Guinn, Ernie Hartford, Faye Guinn

Summary: Hikers reported to Jim Foster that a tree was blocking the trail at the apple orchard; so we walked in with a chain saw and removed it. The trail was blocked and most hikers were going up a muddy slick bank to get around it. It was 33 degrees when we arrived and there was some snow and ice on the trail with all the trees being covered in ice.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 4/6/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 4a, First 0.7 miles south of US421

People: Waylon Jenkins, Joe DeLoach

Summary: We cut the first three blowdowns heading south from Highway 421. Thanks to Jim Chambers for reporting and pinpointing the location. Other blowdowns that are not as obstructing will be cleared on the 3rd Saturday trip.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 4/7/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 20a and 20b, Nolichucky River to just south of Temple Hill Gap

People: Craig Haire

Summary: All trees obstructing the trail were cleared, including a couple just south of Temple Hill Gap.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 4/7/2013

Purpose: Scout relocations and Konnarock camping and access

Location: Section 16a, Greasy Creek Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

People: Connie Edmondson, Joe DeLoach

Summary: I checked how far one can drive up Greasy Creek Road and found that it was tough to get past Greasy Creek Friendly; so I parked there. Connie ("CeCe") showed me some places where the Konnarock Crew could camp, but none offered much privacy. It is about a 30 minute walk to Greasy Creek Gap and another 30 minutes to the start of the first relocation. The Trail was in great shape.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 4/7/2013

Purpose: Spring Cleanup

Location: Section 17, Low Gap to Cherry Gap Shelter

People: Elizabeth Dukes, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We cut 11 trees (the largest being about 22 inches in diameter) and numerous branches from the trail and cleaned out water bars. We removed three sacks of trash from the shelter and cleaned the shelter gutter and small ditch in front of the shelter. We also replaced the shelter log book with a new one. The springs near the shelter were running good.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 4/8/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 20b, Just south of Temple Hill Gap

People: Lynn DiFiore, Joe DeLoach

Summary: We lugged a chainsaw up to Temple Hill Gap only to find that the worst blowdowns had been cleared the day before. We cut two within 0.2 miles south of the gap, one of which was so large that we were going to cut a notch in it, but ended up removing it completely.

Reporting: David Dunham

Date: 4/8/2013

Purpose: Remove blowdowns and do routine maintenance

Location: Section 8, Shook Branch to Wilbur Dam Road

People: Dave Dunham, Carol Dunham, Ken Buchanan, Brian Paley

Summary: We removed a total of 15 blowdowns and trees that were pulled over with the blowdowns. We lopped extensively, laurel, rhododendrons and low hanging branches. We also painted blazes that needed repainting.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 4/9/2013

Purpose: Scout access for Konnarock Crew

Location: Section 16a, Greasy Creek Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I gained access to a gated Forest Service road to look for a campsite and a shorter access route (than going in at Greasy Creek Gap) for the Konnarock Crew for the relocation near Clyde Smith Shelter. I had not been in that way since the early 1990's and could have saved myself a lot of time by asking someone more familiar to join me. But thanks to a phone chat with Carl Fritz, I eventually found and flagged the route up to the A.T., coming out just south of the southern-most flagline. Either along this route or behind another gate should be a good place for the Crew to camp. We will review this with them and show them the route during their project check on April 27.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/9/2013

Purpose: Cut out trail relocations

Location: Section 11a, North of White Rocks Mountain

People: John Beaudet, Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Brian Paley, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples

Summary: Part of the Tuesday crew worked on cutting out trail relocations near White Rocks Mountain for Hard Core. We basically have all the upper relocations cut out after removing many rhododendrons and even more green briars. Sun and heat were major tiring factors in addition to the two and one-half mile walk in. We need to make a return trip to finish flagging, mark crew sections and determine exact trail placement.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/9/2013

Purpose: Install lath on bridges and rehab trail

Location: Section 10, Just trail north of Dennis Cove

People: Dave Dunham, Becky Kinder, Ted Mowery, Gayle Riddervold

Summary: Part of the Tuesday crew installed new lath on locust log and 2x4 bridges near Dennis Cove. They also removed many small roots and rocks from the walking path.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 4/11/2013

Purpose: AT Committee Meeting

Location: Eastman Employee Center, Kingsport

People: Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Paul Benfield, Bob Peoples, Vic Hasler, Tim Stewart, Kim Peters, Steve Wilson, Steve Perri

Summary: The AT Committee met to discuss project plans, grants, work logistics, upcoming meetings, and coordination of communications. We have two more weeks of Konnarock (6/27 to 7/1 and 7/11 to 7/15) for trail work; Week 1: North of Greasy

Creek, and Week 2: South of Clyde Smith Shelter. Logistics for where to stay and road access are still being worked out. Suggestions were made to check out access from Laurel Road. The ATC review is April 27th. Hardcore is Sunday and Monday, May 19 and 20. Sunday work will be at White Rocks (likely a 2-year project) and Monday there will be a split in the large group with some at Little Rock Knob and some near Ash Gap. TEHCC has been approved for the Ridgerunner grant, Hardcore support, and for some tools. We will need to purchase other relo material including pin flags. The Ridgerunner job-opening has been posted to the ATC website. The hired person will be reporting to SAHC for administration purposes. We plan to help provide info on water availability from the restroom facilities after further clarification with the USFS. Access to Cloudland will be available for the ASU crew for the April 27th outing. During Hardcore, TEHCC will station a person at the gate near Carvers Gap to allow access only to club volunteers. Carl and Ed have met with Lyn DiFiore and Matt Fusco to work out details for the design and implementation of the Koonford Bridge project. The longest span is shorter than previously thought, so we will be able to use rough cut, treated lumber. This is a simple design now that the span doesn't require more reinforced lumber. The support beams across the footings will be 4"x16"x22' and weigh about 400 lb each. The USFS is getting quotes so we can tabulate the cost. Joe reviewed the need for volunteers for the Biennial Conference workshops. We have a signup sheet with times and number of volunteers needed. We'll need 22 people to cover 4-hour slots. The Mid-Appalachian Trail Club proposed a connector trail for the Iron Mtn Trail to connect to the AT on the ridge of Iron Mtn just south of Cross Mtn Rd. We plan to do a field inspection and see if there are any issues with potential access by non-hiking recreational users. We discussed a recent article in the Johnson City Press about relocation of power lines near Bear Branch. We have not seen any scoping info from the USFS, so we will try to get more info.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 4/11/2013

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 13a, US19E to Dolls Flats

People: Becky Kinder, Gayle Riddervold

Summary: We hiked two miles in, rechecking water bars. We removed many small roots and rocks that were sticking up in the trail and cleared off the first section of rock steps. It was a beautiful day and we encounter almost a dozen thru hikers. There were no blowdowns to report. We also picked up trash around the trailhead.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 4/13/2013

Purpose: Maintain section

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Cloudland

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: Our highest elevation Trail section took a beating this winter. It started across the road on the Round Bald side of Carvers Gap, where the culvert we put in last summer has been torn partially out of the ground and is obstructing rather than channeling water. My guess is that a snowplow caught it. The culvert needs to be removed or reset. The condition of the section between the old Hack Line and Carvers Gap was a testament to the need to install and maintain good drainage. It has eroded badly, even washing some of the gravel out of the geoweb, and water was running down the Trail. Considerable digging and maybe more intensive efforts will be needed to rehabilitate this section. Even the rocky Hack Line suffered erosion. It looked like the heavy winter snows melted quickly, though there were still patches near the top where the snow was more than a foot deep. The sign for the shelter that was most visible to northbounders is gone. A long yellow ribbon has been tied, but the side trail needs to be better marked. At least the blowdowns were not bad. There were a few, including a pretty big one; but none were significant obstructions and the dead fir is not hard to cut. One downed tree was lodged in snow between the shelter and Toll House Gap; it can be bypassed, but will need to be cut after the snow melts, as will a large one close to Toll House Gap that someone cut once. I picked up trash at the shelter which was not bad, though I would have liked to meet the people who stashed empty metallized pouches of dessert under a rock near the summit. I placed the shelter register. A step near Cloudland had slipped and will need to be reset but is OK for now. I put up a sign at Cloudland notifying hikers that the facilities will be closed until late May.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 4/13/2013

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 9b, Hampton Blue Blaze to Pond Mountain

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I walked the entire section and removed a couple of blowdowns. I found a "new" spring above the gorge that was flooding the trail and placed some stepping stones and crusher stone to temporarily alleviate the wet conditions. I removed trash from the Blue Blaze trail. The Hampton trailhead parking was filled to overflowing all day. Many people were out enjoying the trail on this awesome spring day.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 4/13/2013

Purpose: Cut blowdown

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

People: John Beaudet, Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: We trimmed some trail and John cut a large blowdown just north of the shelter. We also reworked a large wet area in front of the shelter to get the water to drain. The trail from the shelter to USA Raft was open and we did some more light clipping.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 4/14/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter to Little Hump

People: Lynn DiFiore, Brian Schloff

Summary: We made the trip out based on hiker reports of excessive trash at the barn and a huge blowdown blocking the trail towards Little Hump. We removed the normal amount of trash from the barn, although one additional large bag was discovered hanging high in a tree near the privy. We also cut out a tangle of a couple large trees right before Little Hump. The springs are running well. We saw numerous thru hikers.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 4/14/2013

Purpose: Routine Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 13a, Dolls Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We took the road up to Dolls Flats to finish the last mile of trail maintenance we started the previous day. Becky cleaned off two big sets of steps and three smaller sets of rock steps. Some of the steps were caked with 2 to 3 inches of sod. I cleared the trail of green briars and we cut some loose roots that were sticking up out of the ground. Upon our return to Dolls Flats, we picked up plastic bottles and cans.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 4/15/2013

Purpose: Divert water

Location: Section 9b, Laurel Fork Gorge

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I created a culvert with rock steps to divert spring water run-off from the trail, 400 yards north of the Blue Blaze/A.T. intersection. The Trail is now dry in this location.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 4/16/2013

Purpose: Repaint blazes

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

People: Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster

Summary: Ken and I repainted the blazes from Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap and also did some light trimming and trail clean up.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 4/18/2013

Purpose: Spring Maintenance

Location: Section 17, FS230 to Low Gap

People: Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Ernie Hartford, Wayne Jones, Susan Peters

Summary: This crew cut four trees and removed many small branches from the trail. They lopped overhanging branches, cleaned waterbars, and reopened a short section of the A.T. on the top of Unaka which was bypassed several years ago due to a large number of blowdowns blocking the Trail.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 4/18/2013

Purpose: Spring Maintenance

Location: Section 18, FS230 to Beauty Spot

People: Andrew Cleland, Bruce Darby, Lou Haase, Mike Hupko

Summary: We cut three trees, removed many small branches from the trail, lopped overhanging branches, cleaned water bars, and picked up trash along the trail. We checked the two springs and the trails to the springs.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/18/2013

Purpose: Rehab trail and prepare for Hard Core

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove to White Rocks Mountain

People: Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart

Summary: We had great weather and accomplished a lot. Brian and Ted cut many locust steps in preparation for one Hard Core crew to rehab near Dennis Cove. Jim Foster, Kim, Bob and Carl installed pin flags, and measured and assessed relocations on White Rocks

Mtn. We also checked out a potential way to get heavy tools and a few leaders almost to Coon Den Falls trail. Jim Chambers and Tim blasted a path in a large boulder with a rifting hammer and sledge. Another day on these boulders with several maintainers will make this path significantly safer than it was early this year.

Reporting: Scott Vandam

Date: 4/18/2013

Purpose: General maintenance

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

People: Scott Vandam

Summary: I hiked the section with a handsaw, removed three mid-sized blowdowns, and cleaned up trash at the Bitter End trailhead, at the campsites, and along Laurel Fork Creek. The Trail is muddy in spots due to heavy use in the peak season by thru-hikers, but otherwise is very passable.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 4/20/2013

Purpose: Spring maintenance

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

People: Richard Cox, Rick Lott, Missy Wright, Michael Watts

Summary: We trimmed, weeded, cleared blow downs, and repainted blazes.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 4/20/2013

Purpose: Spring maintenance

Location: Section 4a, US421 to Double Springs Shelter

People: Anna Hackler, Shane Hackler, Andrew Scott, Phyllis Cairnes, Terry Oldfield, Lowell Toof, Joe DeLoach, Beck Kinder, Gayle Riddervold, Kim Peters

Summary: What a good turnout for the 3rd-Saturday Hiking with Tools! With so many hands, no one had to work very hard. We cleaned water bars, clipped briars, removed blowdowns and removed blazes. (For some unknown reason, this section was severely over-blazed with up to 5 blazes visible at a time.) It was a beautiful day to be in the woods, even though the wind on the ridge made things a little chilly at times. We had wonderful sunshine and great views off both sides of the ridge. We lost track of the number of thru-hikers we saw, as well as the number of blowdowns cleared. Upon arriving at the shelter, we picked up trash then split into two groups with half of our number continuing on to TN91 and the rest returning to US421 to drive around and pick up the rest of the group.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 4/20/2013

Purpose: Spring maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter to TN91

People: Joe DeLoach, Anna Hackler, Shane Hackler, Andrew Scott, Lowell Toof

Summary: After arriving at Double Springs Shelter from US421, half of the 3rd-Saturday Hiking with Tools group continued on to TN91. They cleared a few blowdowns and clipped briars on their way. Many thanks to Joe DeLoach for toting and using his chainsaw on the whole section (including Section 4a)!

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 4/22/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

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

People: Lynn DiFiore

Summary: Based on reports of a 5-inch tree down near Stan Murray, I went out with hand saw and loppers to enjoy the pretty afternoon. I cleared the blowdown (actually a hawthorne that had split and fallen across the trail) and numerous downed limbs. I also made a pre-emptive strike on the briars as it appears this will be a banner year for them. Wildflowers blooming on this section are spring beauty, trout lily, and cut leaf toothwort. The wake robin trillium are just starting to open. A dozen thru-hikers and a few section hikers spent the night at the barn.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/23/2013

Purpose: Install sign at Roan High Knob Shelter

Location: Section 15a, Roan High Knob Shelter

People: Carl Fritz, Becky Kinder, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Gayle Riddervold, Tim Stewart

Summary: We cleared one blowdown between Toll House Gap and the shelter that had been buried in snow. There was still a pile of snow 12 inches deep. We met many northbounders. Almost all thanked us for our work and many were effusive about the trail from Hughes Gap to Cloudland. For example, two Vermont trail maintainers said they had never seen such well laid out trail. They could

not believe the rocks that we had moved. To mark the shelter, we put a 4x4 post (with shelter signage engraved on it by Steve Perri) into the ground, drove spikes into it, and piled rocks on top surrounding the post. We had made five attempts at digging a hole and finally were creative in using a spud bar and sledge hammer to break through the rock. The only remaining improvement step is to have a flashing neon sign for shelter.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/23/2013

Purpose: Prepare relocations

Location: Section 15b, North of Ash Gap

People: Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Becky Kinder, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Gayle Riddervold, Tim Stewart

Summary: We started at Ash Gap and surveyed the four relocations northward. Pin flags, distances, sections, additional clearing, and problem areas were studied. Some helping hands had removed all our previous flagging and pin flags on some of these sections. We are basically ready for Hard Core and ASU Trail Crew here. We cleared some of the waterbars at Clouldland. No new lock protections have been installed on the restrooms.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/23/2013

Purpose: Repair culvert pipe

Location: Section 14b, Carver's Gap

People: Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart

Summary: With our last energy of day we tried to dig out and reset the culvert pipe that had been damaged by a snowplow. Finally, we pulled it out with the truck. We only reinstalled about a five-foot section of probably the original 12 to 14 foot pipe. It should be easier for us to keep the gravel out, and hopefully we will have no need to move big equipment across this ditch for a long time.

Reporting: Ted Mowery

Date: 4/23/2013

Purpose: Install stile and mow

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Ted Mowery

Summary: Part of the Tuesday crew installed a new stile in the back pasture so hikers would not have to walk through a muddy open gate that cattle are using. Ted also mowed the trail on the farm. Lots of hikers were coming by.

Reporting: George Thorpe

Date: 4/23/2013

Purpose: Repair trail wet areas

Location: Section 5, TN91 to Iron Mountain Shelter, Bog Bridges

People: Ken Buchanan, Joe Morris, Brian Paley, George Thorpe

Summary: To fix some muddy areas, part of the Tuesday crew completed two new turnpikes at the bog bridges, and did some repairs/dressing of one of the existing ones. We also completed work around the spring access pipe by creating a pad for the hikers to work from while obtaining water. The area was very soggy and breaking down the stream bank.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 4/25/2013

Purpose: Pick up trash

Location: Section 4a, Campsite just south of Highway 421

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: At the start of our 3rd Saturday trip on April 20 we encountered a lot of trash, including a mattress, at the campsite about 200 yards south of Highway 421. None of us had a truck that day. I was pleasantly surprised that by Thursday almost all the trash had been picked up, except the mattress. Though it had rained, it wasn't too heavy. I have to wonder what someone was thinking.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/27/2013

Purpose: Cut hazard tree

Location: Section 15b, Just north of Ash Gap

People: Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz

Summary: We cut a large dead tree which was on a proposed relocation switchback. It was too dangerous to work underneath it and its rotten roots will need to be removed. We also cut a leaner which had up rooted.



TEHCC T-Shirt Order Form

In time for the ATC Biennial meeting, we would like to offer a shirt featuring the club's patch.



A performance style t-shirt constructed of 5-ounce 95%/5% poly/spandex having a soft, cottony feel, but effective at wicking to stay dry. Loose athletic fit. Offered in men's and women's cuts.

The club will be covering the art and print set-up fees, so the **cost** will be **\$20 each** for the shirt, printing, shipping, and tax. Payment is either cash or check made out to Vic Hasler. Send to TED Building 231 or 106 Sandpiper Circle, Kingsport, TN 37663.

Deadline for this order is **Friday, May 31st** so that the shirts are ready by late June. These will be primarily distributed either at Eastman or through the Tuesday maintainers.

Name:

Address:

Contact number/e-mail:

Design: Men's Women's (v-neck)

Adult Size: Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large

Shirt Color: Kelley Green True Navy Heather Gray Dark Denim Maroon