



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

August 2013

tehcc.org

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From the Chair

Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair

The 2013 ATC Biennial in Cullowhee, NC was a fun experience. A new area and trails to explore – while dodging afternoon thundershowers. Western Carolina University provided a good location for the workshops, gatherings, and hikes. Thanks to TEHCC members who volunteered to facilitate various activities.

Next, the TEHCC performance shirts worked well on the humid afternoons. Recommended care is to wash inside out to protect the printed club patch, and then hang dry – ready to wear again in a few hours. For those interested in these club shirts, the [online](#)

[form](#) has been updated. Orders can be placed now with a check. The current intention is to collect orders through the Fall Dinner meeting.

So, save the date. The TEHCC Fall Dinner meeting is now scheduled for Friday, November 8th. David Ramsey has agreed to give an update on Rocky Fork based on his new book, which is being published in October.

The hiking program has been active this year with many individuals and families out enjoying the local trails. The paddling experience is also very active as facilitated by the APEs organization. And maintenance crews have been battling the extra growth caused by the copious rainfall.

Finally, thanks for the support to update the club constitution regarding Steering Committee leadership. The new process will be used for the upcoming 2014 term. The Steering Committee tries to give direction to the club, while hosting two dinner events and managing rental equipment and other activities. If you are interested in helping the club in this role, please contact me or any other current [Steering Committee](#) member.

AT Biennial Conference: Cullowhee 2013 July 19-26th

Steve Perri reporting



The 2013 Biennial Conference of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy was held at Western Carolina University July 19-26th. The meeting drew more than 900 registered. The meeting is held every other year and is rotated among the 32 trail maintaining clubs. TEHCC was a cohost with the GATC, NHC, SMHC, and CMC clubs splitting roles for their responsibility in coordinating activities. The major activities include publicity, registration, hikes, housing, camping, workshops, excursions, entertainment, and exhibits.

ATC also has their business meeting of the membership where they elect their new board members, recognize volunteer and staff service, and pass new business. Elected to the board were new members Beth Critton, Edward R. Guyot, Carrie Rodriguez-Tweeten, Samuel J. Sarofeen, Nathaniel Stoddard, and Greg Winchester. Lenny Bernstein, Richard J. Daileader, Marcia Fairweather, Arthur Foley, Mary Higley, Terry Lierman, Sandra L. Marra, Elizabeth Pierce Thompson,

and Clark Wright Jr. are all returning board members. At the meeting, ATC introduced the incoming Executive Director, Ron Tipton

who comes with vast experience in non-profit conservation organizations and most recently from the National Parks Conservation Association.

TEHCC was responsible for coordinating 72 workshops. Planning for workshops began at the end of the 2011 biennial to ID tracks (topics) of interest and populate the program with workshops within these tracks. We had workshop attendance from 8 people to over 100 among the 72 offered with most running around 30-50 people. Among the challenges were assigning the rooms to fit the workshop registration and communicating changes when registration exceeded room capacity, and finding workarounds to the University's computer system until their IT Help Desk responded to our requests for assistance and showed us an easy way to load workshop presentations.

Recognition really goes to Joe DeLoach for organizing and communicating with the presenters as well as providing assistance with their presentations to make sure they operated during the meeting. He dedicated many hours in advance of the meeting preparing and documenting all the info for publications and ensured we had all the information needed to publicize the workshops. Thanks also goes to Steve Perri who served on the Workshops Committee, handled scheduling, and was our point person with the Conference Planning Committee. Many thanks to our other club volunteers helping with the desk and building assistance including: Paul Benfield, Mary Fanslow, Jim Foster, Vic Hasler, Terry Oldfield, Kim Peters, Ted Mowery, and Steve Wilson. Thanks to Collins Chew for conducting two workshops related to geology along the A. T., and to Bob Peoples for describing his walk on the Camino de Santiago; these were three of the best attended workshops. Thanks also to Kent and Nancy Wilson for leading hikes. The 2015 biennial will be held in Winchester at Shenandoah University, VA. We now have an 8 year reprieve from a formal responsibility in hosting before the next meeting rolls around!

New Executive Director Selected for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) board of directors has appointed Ronald J. Tipton as the new executive director/CEO who will lead the organization beginning in late August.

Tipton has spent most of the past 30+ years as an advocate for public land preservation and national park protection. A graduate of George Washington University with an undergraduate degree in American Studies and a law degree from GW's National Law Center, Tipton first worked as a program officer at the National Academy of Sciences and on the oversight/investigative staff of the House Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee.

Since 1978 he has been a part of the advocacy and/or management team of four non-profit national conservation organizations: The Wilderness Society, National Audubon Society, World Wildlife Fund, and National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA).

Tipton was the senior vice president for programs for NPCA from 2000-2008, when he became the senior vice president for policy. Currently, he is focused on expanding the number of national park units to increase the natural and cultural diversity of the park system as the country approaches the 2016 Centennial celebration of the National Park Service.

Bob Almand, chair of the board of directors for the ATC, stated, "Ron has the passion, management experience, and advocacy skills that the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is looking for, plus a strong connection to the Appalachian Trail and the Trail community. His high standards and experience will help move the organization forward to serve the next generation of Trail users."

Tipton is the recent past President of Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, an organization founded and supported by Episcopal parishes in the DC metropolitan area that provides counseling to individuals in need that want to improve their lives. He has been a member of the board or governing council of numerous recreation and trails organizations, including the ATC, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association.

Tipton has been married for 34 years to Rita Molyneaux and has a son who is a firefighter. In 1978 he walked the entire length of the Trail.

"I feel incredibly privileged and honored to be asked to be Appalachian Trail Conservancy's executive director/CEO. Since I hiked the Trail I have served as a volunteer for more than 25 years with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and helped found the Appalachian Long Distance Hiker's Association", stated Tipton. "I am especially proud of working with people like Ed Garvey and former ATC executive director David Startzell to secure permanent protection through public ownership of the Appalachian Trail corridor from Georgia to Maine."



Ronald J. Tipton, JD
© NPCA/Benjamin C. Tankersley

Start of Kingsport Aquatic Center Kayak Sessions

It is a paddling pool party on Thursday nights from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.!

Come join the [Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts](#) and other paddlers from around our region at the [Kingsport Aquatic Center](#) for tips & tricks about basic kayaking skills and learning how to roll.

During the summer, we will be in the outdoor pool, but in cases of rain, the center will partition off part of the indoor pool for us.



During the winter, the center will have bulkheads installed in the indoor pool and we'll have a section for our use. That indoor pool is huge!

Logistics for bringing in your boat and equipment are pretty simple. There is a gate to the outdoor pool and a door to the indoor pool. The gate/door will be opened during the initial rush of people right around 7:00 P.M. for 10 minutes or so. After the gate/door is closed, people can drop their boat & equipment off at the door, walk to the front desk to pay the \$3.00 and someone will go open the gate/door for them.

We will also have occasional access to the lazy river to use for kayak practice in current! Stay tuned for announcements for these special events...

Please note: The [Jackson Action Wagon](#) will occasionally provide FREE kayak demos of the current fleet of boats at these pool sessions, but neither the pool nor the J.A.W. provides paddling equipment (Paddle, Spray Skirt, etc...) for these sessions. If you are just starting out in the sport and do not yet have your own equipment, please get in touch with the Event Sessions Contact to see if you can get some loaner gear for a session.

Event Sessions Contact:

George Mauger: 864-414-0296, gmauger@eastman.com

Kingsport Aquatic Center

1820 Meadowview Parkway

Kingsport, TN 37660 (423-343-9758)

Contact the Aquatic Center for session confirmation or questions regarding the facility.

Cost: \$3.00 per person

Welcome

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Valerie Watterson

Elizabeth Jones

Ashley Clifford

Jeffrey Skelton

Hillary Moore

Michael Holt

Claire Delaney

Andy Watterson

Christopher Leeper

Megan Williams

Alex Lipe

Fritz Wewers

Pernell Gilliam

Stephen Henson

Jason Hilliard

Anand Murali

Dawn Carr

David Jin

May Satterfield

Shilpi Prasad

Yuri Bhanage

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
August 3	AT Maintenance – Backbone Rock Trail	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
August 9-11	Annual “Babes on the Waves” River Run, Hiawassee River Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
August 16	Relocation at Backbone Rock with ASU Watauga College	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
August 16-17	*NEW DATE* APEs and TEHCC Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Course	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
August 17	3 rd Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
August 18	A.T. - Cloudland to Carver’s Gap	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
August 20	Relo work with Wright State University on White Rocks Mt.	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
August 24	Unaka Mountain Berry Picking	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846
August 24	APEs Nolichucky Gorge First-Timers River Trip & Picnic	Wesley R. Bradley	423-647-1321
August 24	APEs Lower Nolichucky River Trip	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
Sept 14	Natural Tunnel State Park, VA	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846

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, 423-477-4669, (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: Kayak Session Kingsport Aquatic Center

Check out all the event details @: <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/2013/06/27/kingsport-aquatic-center-kayak-session/>

Thursday Evenings During the Summer: Paddle to the Grill

Bring your recreation or touring kayak/canoe to meet with The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts and TEHCC. We will launch at 6:30 p.m. from “Davis Dock” located in Blountville and paddle to “Boone Docks Restaurant” located at Boone Lake Marina in Piney Flats for dinner and a social hour, then paddle back.

As we may be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat; PFDs are mandatory.

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

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

We will launch from Riverside Park in Elizabethton behind the Ballpark at 3 p.m. 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.

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

AT Maintenance - Backbone Rock Trail, Saturday, August 3

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

How about a Saturday get away? We need to do some preparation for about 90 students and professors coming in mid August to dig relocations on Backbone Rock Trail. We need to at a minimum set out more pin flags, cut out brush, and set a couple of steps near parking lot in concrete. We can also do some trail finish work on what we roughed in last year. We will try to leave work site between 2 and 3 PM.

On this trip depending upon who goes we can have some go from Johnson City up through Shady Valley. Others can up I-81.

Possible meeting places:

- Carl's house at 8 AM
- Colonial Heights between State of Franklin Bank and McDonalds at 8:10 AM
- Parkway Discount Wine and Liquor in JC at 8:20 AM
- Food City in Elizabethton at 8:40 AM
- Backbone Rock Parking Lot about 9:30 AM

Please let me know if you plan to come and where you would like to meet.

Annual "Babes on the Waves" River Run, August 9-11, 2013

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

Hey gals, It's time!! Time to get together and have our annual "Babes On The Waves" River Run.

Once again we're making it a weekend on the Hiwassee River!

Once a year, all the female APE'etts come together to rule the river. All are welcome, even you guys who don't want to be left out; we don't discriminate, but it's our day and we want to get as many female paddlers out on the water as we can!

We plan to drive down on Friday afternoon and camp at Gee Creek Campground. It is a very nice facility with full amenities. Then we will paddle on Saturday, meeting at the put-in at 12:00 noon. We'll load up and convoy from the campground.

We'll find a place to eat that evening after hot showers back at the campground. A campfire will be great afterwards and I'm bringing s'mores! Campground: <http://www.stateparks.com/hiwassee.html> Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/z7rgO>

Relocation at Backbone Rock with ASU Watauga College, Friday, August 16, 2013

Leader: [Carl Fritz](#), 423-477-4669

This is our annual outing with the freshmen, a few sophomores and faculty from Watauga College of ASU. They expect a total of 90. We will continue to dig the relocation of Backbone Rock Trail as we did last year. Your help in leading a small group of students would make this event successful. Contact Carl if you are interested in helping.

APE's and TEHCC Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Course, August 16-17, 2013 *NEW DATE*

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

River levels are still too high to conduct the ASWR class as originally scheduled so we are moving the date to Aug 16-17. The registration form and more information can be found at <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/2013/03/25/apes-tehcc-advanced-swiftwater-rescue-course/>.

If interested be sure to send in your form to reserve your spot.

A.T. – Cloudland to Carver's Gap, Sunday, August 18, 2013

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

This section of the Appalachian Trail has a short side path to Roan High Knob Shelter, which at 6,285 ft. is the highest elevation shelter on the entire A.T. and of unique design. The shelter is a former cabin for a fire warden who patrolled from a former fire tower that was nearby. This shuttle hike will stage a vehicle at Carver's Gap, and then drive up to the Cloudland garden area. On the 2.4-mile downhill hike through the woods we'll check out the shelter and then arrive back at the gap. Departure time is 1:00 p.m. from the parking lot below the McDonalds in Colonial Heights. It's an 80-minute drive down thru Elizabethton to reach Carver's Gap.



Stamping Ground on Unaka Mountain Berry Picking, August 24, 2013, 9 a.m.

Contact: [Tim Schaefer](#), 423-302-0846

Note: This hike is a moving target as Tim tries to balance family and work requirements.

Bring your buckets and let's pick blueberries/huckleberries. We're leaving Colonial Heights at 9 a.m. This may be late for berries on Unaka but we'll try since it's closer and new to me. We'll move on to Carver's Gap if need be. The general plan is to focus more on the picking than the hiking, so this will be more family/beginner oriented. As always, watch our schedule for the latest updates (or connect our calendar to yours).

APes Nolichucky Gorge First-Timers River Trip and Picnic, August 24, 2013

Leader: [Wesley R. Bradley](#), 423-647-1321

Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 24, 2013 for this fun annual event!

For the new and upcoming paddlers, this is your chance to paddle the gorge at a lower water level which makes it easier. The Class IV rapids turn into Class III.

Meet at the USA Raft Outpost (take-out) at 11:00 a.m. USA Raft will be shuttling our group up to the put-in using one of their raft buses and a boat trailer! This will make the logistics for shuttling very easy and our cars will be waiting for us back at the take-out when we get off the river! Please bring \$5.00 to help cover the cost of this shuttle ride.

APes Picnic: Meet at the USA Raft Area take-out at 5:30 p.m.

This is our last big "get together" for the year and the APes will host catering by TBA! We will have tasty food waiting for us at USA Raft when we get off the river! Please feel free to bring any side dishes or deserts to share with the group dinner. If you are an APes member, the dinner will be FREE and non-APes members can chow down for \$6.00. The club will also provide non-alcoholic beverages for the picnic. If you wish to bring adult beverages to the picnic, USA Raft has asked that you drink them from a cup (NO glass or cans!). You may also want to bring a folding chair due to limited seating.

After dinner, we will have a quick meeting to discuss plans for Gauley Fest, G.A.F., Green Narrows Race, and river trips, and set a date for the APes Winter meeting.

For more information visit: <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/2013/06/25/apes-nolichucky-gorge-1st-timers-river-trip-picnic/>

APes Lower Nolichucky River Trip, August 24, 2013

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

USA Raft Outpost to Sawmill – Class I-II. Plan to play a lot and maybe even stop and go swimming, with a snack break included to make it a fun day on the Lower Nolichucky!

Meet at the USA Raft Outpost (put-in) at 12:30 p.m. to set shuttle for the Lower Noli Trip.

For more information visit: <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/2013/06/25/apes-nolichucky-gorge-1st-timers-river-trip-picnic/>

Natural Tunnel State Park, VA, September 14, 2013, 9 a.m.

Contact: [Tim Schaefer](#), 423-302-0846

Family/Beginner hike. Join us for a day of hiking the trails of Natural Tunnel State Park. Reviewing the Wiki, we're missing some trail details and I'm hoping to hike the park and get them all in one day. We'll be limited by the speeds of a 7 and 4 year old, and maybe a dog, but we'll try. Contact Tim Schaefer for details, 423-302-0846.



For the Record

Lower Watauga, Sunday, July 7, 2013

Debbie Briscoe reporting

Yesterday was no beginner trip on the Watauga! Barry Allison, Steve Davis & I met as planned in the pouring rain and assessed which river we should do. We could have done the Doe but we all agreed that the lack of more paddlers put us at risk and standing there looking at the Watauga at the highest levels we had ever seen seemed challenging enough, not to mention the curiosity of what it would be like at these extraordinary levels!

We set the shuttle at the usual place in Watauga and geared up in extra gear than usual wearing dry tops/suits. The fog was rising and the rain kept coming. If any of you have not paddled the Watauga when the fog rises it poses a whole new challenge as you cannot see ahead very far and yesterday the ever rising water made the river very reactionary and squirrely.

It was so different. Where there was usually nothing there were waves and then some rapids like Sycamore Shoals was smoother and mostly a wash out. But the rapid at River Bend had 4 foot waves! We did stop for a short break at the river access at River Bend before continuing on. It felt cold after stopping so I was anxious to get moving. When we approached a spot where we usually catch an eddy behind a rock and surf I opted to skip it because the rock was submerged and there was a pretty good hole there! But Steve decided to jump into it. Barry and I caught the eddy on the river right to watch him as it was even more important to keep a sharp eye on each other. Good thing we did too! Steve was pulled hard into the hole and the bow of his canoe was consumed by the water. He was bracing on the rock as hard as he could. I had my camera out but had no chance to turn it on before I saw he was in trouble. I said "Come on Steve, pull it out, oh, Oh, OH NOOOOOO! Let's get him Barry, QUICK!" As you guessed, he rolled over. I scanned for an eddy and directed Barry to it to catch Steve. I went for the canoe and rammed it into the eddy as Steve swam aggressive into it ahead of the boat as it was creating calmer water for him to cross the line with it to the bank. But the bank was steep, covered with undergrowth and the water was deep. I had Steve hold onto my boat as I back paddled upriver along the shore until we found a spot that was at least possible for him to touch bottom. Further up we finally found a place where he could get out.

Whew, out at last and his nifty battery powered bilge pump was extracting the water from his boat. Steve stood and warmed up and we attested at how glad we were that he had had the insight to wear his dry suit and also that we had stopped and had eaten during our break. Food helps the body recover and also staying hydrated does too. To help him back in Barry got hard up against the canoe to brace it against the bank and Steve jumped in it like I had never seen him jump in! Dang I wish I had had my video rolling as it was epic!

Well after that, we became more conservative and continued on to see that the river was unusually high and swift. The rock at the wall was completely submerged and at Surprise it was nasty! We took shelter in the Cave to escape the rain and luckily there was a warm air pocket in it! As a matter of fact we had run through a warm pocket or two already and they felt marvelous.

The Big Hole was not there and the waves after it were not as punchy as usual. The Class I+ at the Ranch was definitely a solid Class 2 for sure with some 4 footers in the middle and 2 footers that extended further than usual, lots of reactionary water after it too. I thoroughly enjoyed the last sets that are before the take-out but the waves were in different places so we had to work it by zigzagging to catch them. And they were way bigger and did I mention enjoyable! Of course, the last set were in the trees so I ducked and stayed on that wonderful wave train that extended much further with higher t-tops to catch air! Woo Hoo! There was even an eddy line at the take-out to get out of the main current! The 11 O'clock news had a report last night about the high levels too!

What a run! I'll never forget it! Thanks fellow's for coming to make one more good memory!

Steele Creek Park, Sunday, June 30, 2013

Barry Griggs reporting

We had a beautiful blue-sky day for our hike on the Trinkle Hollow Trails in beautiful Steele Creek Park in Bristol. Trails covered included Quarry Cave, Rock Cut, Powerline, Fox Ridge and finally the ultra-easy Lakeside. This route includes some moderate uphill and a downhill to Lakeside Trail that requires extra caution as footing is a little loose; but the variety keeps things interesting. Several rest stops were taken along the way as needed. Hikers learned that hike leaders can't always be trusted when they say how many more hills are left to cover. Lakeside Trail revealed that a fishing rod and bait would have come in handy as several hungry looking fish seemed to follow us. Hiking were Denise Hardin, Denise Spears, Beverly Griggs, Gerald Scott and Barry Griggs.



Fun Fest 2013

Vic Hasler reporting

On Tuesday night, July 16, Jay Leutz introduced the Kingsport community to several characters involved in preserving Belview Mountain, a towering peak along the A.T. in North Carolina, from destructive mining. Jay read and displayed pictures from his book, "Stand Up That Mountain: The Battle to Save One Small Community in the Wilderness Along the Appalachian Trail."

Unfortunately for the second year in a row, the Thursday night Moonlight Hike was cancelled. This year the hard cloudburst during the prior Wednesday night was still draining off the Lakeside trail. Bays Mountain Park staff decided cancelling the hike was best for

the trail and the public. Thanks to those who had volunteered to light the path.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 06/11/2013

Purpose: Lop briars and bushes

Location: Section 14b, South side of Grassy Ridge

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I lopped alder and blueberry bushes and blackberry briars overhanging the trail for about a half-mile just south of the Grassy Ridge Trail intersection.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 06/15/2013

Purpose: Check section

Location: Section 11b, Bitter End to Moreland Gap Shelter

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: With a report of some blowdowns, I went out to check my section. There were some step-overs, but nothing that was obstructing the trail. The rhododendrons were growing well and required much lopping. The metal tread that I put on the footbridge earlier looked good. I placed a new log book at the shelter. The broom, rake and shovel were present and accounted for, as well as some trash, which I hauled out. I was surprised to see nine thru-hikers this late in the season.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 06/16/2013

Purpose: Cut back annual growth

Location: Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter to Little Hump

People: Lynn DiFiore, Lyndsey Smith

Summary: Abundant rains have resulted in the need to again go over the annual growth that was cut back in May! We brushed and lopped from the barn to the top of Little Hump before impending thunder-storms sent us back. We removed one large hollowed tree from the trail with the help of a thru hiker. Section hikers reported stinging nettle across the trail near Bradley Gap, so I will get that on the next trip. The springs are running very well and we saw numerous day hikers.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 06/19/2013

Purpose: Dig relocation

Location: Section 6, Turkeypen Gap

People: John Beaudet, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: We joined the four-member SAWS crew to continue the relocation near Turkeypen Gap. It is possible that they will finish the upper relo. It is nice to dig in good soil.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 06/19/2013

Purpose: Summer Maintenance

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS230 switchback

People: Sandie Burns, David Douthat, Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Lou Haase, Jerry Jones, Wayne Jones, David McMillin, Judy Middlemas, Eric Middlemas, Susan Peters, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We mowed weeds, lopped overhanging limbs, removed small limbs from the trail, picked up trash around the shelter, and removed one large bag of trash that was left at the shelter.

Reporting: Becky Kinder

Date: 06/21/2013

Purpose: Whack weeds

Location: Section 13a, US19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: Gayle and I whacked weeds and over growth at the beginning of the trailhead. We found one bag of trash and two FedEx boxes of trash from an Oregon hiker.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 06/21/2013

Purpose: Cut annual growth

Location: Section 14a, Little Hump to Bradley Gap

People: Lynn DiFiore

Summary: I went back to finish the brushing that I had been unable to complete earlier. I got plenty of practice carrying a string trimmer to Little Hump to begin cutting. I was able to cut all the weeds and briars to Bradley Gap and back. I cleared a few small downed limbs and a tree, and also got to meet our awesome Ridgerunner, Kat! I saw lots of day hikers and overnight backpackers, and picked up minimal trash at the shelter.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 06/21/2013

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14b, North side of Grassy Ridge

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I cut briars and weeds from the Grassy Ridge Trail junction for about three-fourths of a mile northward.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 06/21/2013

Purpose: Plan bridge replacements

Location: Unicoi Ranger Office

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

Summary: We met with Lynn DiFiore and Matt Fusco to continue planning the replacement of all three bridges in Laurel Fork Gorge, including Koonford Bridge. A field visit is needed primarily to determine the approach steps. We should be able to order lumber by early July.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 06/22/2013

Purpose: Repair trail

Location: Section 8, US 321 to Oliver Hollow Road parking area

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, George Thorpe

Summary: Near US 321 the high water level of the lake has eroded the foundation of the trail and the trail has caved a good two feet deep. We chose to make a 140-foot relocation to move the trail up hill. A 30-foot dip near Oliver Hollow Road could not drain high water and became a mud hole. We continued Joe's work to fill it with rock and provide drainage.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 06/22/2013

Purpose: Summer Maintenance

Location: Section 18, Deep Gap to Beauty Spot

People: Eric Middlemas, Mike Hupko

Summary: We mowed a small section of trail at Deep Gap, all of Beauty Spot Gap, and about one-third mile of the north section of Beauty Spot.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 06/22/2013

Purpose: ATC Biennial Conference planning meeting

Location: Western Carolina University

People: Steve Perri, Joe DeLoach

Summary: This was the final Planning Committee meeting before the Biennial, held on site to familiarize ourselves with the locations of all activities.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 06/23/2013

Purpose: Whack and lop weeds

Location: Section 4b, TN91 to Double Springs Shelter

People: Tim Stewart, Patricia Friedrichs

Summary: We went out to weed-whack and remove any obstructions from the trail. There weren't too many obstructions, but the weeds and grass were growing well. The shelter was missing the rake, and the broom was broken; the shovel was ok. The shelter log is about half full. We hauled out some trash. All the springs were flowing. The stile that we put up before the fence was installed is once again without the fence (on the left side anyway).

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 06/23/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and briars

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Roan High Knob Shelter side trail

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: Our Roan Ridgerunner reported five fairly substantial blowdowns between Carvers Gap and the shelter. I removed these five with a pruning saw, as well as a couple more that could still be stepped under but were starting to get in the way. I also knocked back some briars.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 06/23/2013

Purpose: Check road access to A.T. for Konnarock project

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

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I confirmed that the keys unlock the gate to provide access to the A.T. and to the camping area for this summer's Konnarock Crew project. The road is okay for vehicles having high ground clearance; it is a little rutted and muddy, but not bad and does not require 4-wheel-drive. I trimmed some trees that have grown into the road.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 06/24/2013

Purpose: Summer maintenance

Location: Section 18, FS230 switchback to 1.1 miles north of Indian Grave Gap

People: Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Judy Middlemas, Eric Middlemas, Andrew Cleland, David Douthat, Tim Manning, Lou Haase, David McMillin, Susan Peters, Deanna Richardson, John Parks, Jerry Jones, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We mowed weeds, lopped overhanging limbs from the trail, and picked up trash.

Reporting: John Beaudet

Date: 06/24/2013

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

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

People: John Beaudet

Summary: I lopped rhododendrons, then limped out four miles after tripping over the wheelchair ramp at Curly Maple Gap Shelter. The trail is good now, but needs a little re-lo work at the shelter where water is running down the trail for about 100 feet.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 06/24/2013

Purpose: Drop off keys with Konnarock Crew

Location: Konnarock Base Camp, Sugar Grove, VA

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I took a special key to the Konnarock Crew leader at their base camp in Sugar Grove. The key is for the gated road behind which the Konnarock Crew will camp this summer.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 06/26/2013

Purpose: Place blaze post

Location: Section 14b, Junction of A.T. and Grassy Ridge Trail

People: Bob Peoples, Richard Carter

Summary: We placed a post with a blaze on it a few feet north of the junction to hopefully alleviate the lack of a sign until one can be placed.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 06/27/2013

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 9b, Hampton trailhead and one mile of the A.T.

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I cut weeds and woody growth on blue-blaze trail and about a mile of the A.T. northbound.

Reporting: Ed Oliver

Date: 06/28/2013

Purpose: Inspect bridges

Location: Section 10, Laurel Fork Gorge

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver

Summary: We inspected the two larger bridges in Laurel Fork Gorge.

Reporting: Tim McClain

Date: 06/29/2013

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 3b, Spring to US421

People: Tim McClain

Summary: I continued working on the weeds in this section, completing an additional 1/2 mile when the string trimmer malfunctioned. All is clear from US421 north about 2 miles. I will need to go back in the next few weeks to complete the remaining 1/2 mile or so to the spring.

Reporting: Gerald Scott

Date: 06/29/2013

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

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

People: Joe Herbert, Gerald Scott, Harold Wexler

Summary: We trimmed weeds and briars, removed two small blowdowns, trimmed back rhodos, picked up trash around the shelter, cleaned out the fire ring, and cleaned out waterbars. There was noticeable trail erosion on the south end of the section.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 07/01/2013

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 7, From Wilbur Dam Rd to the spring

People: Ed Oliver, Ken Buchanan, Kim Peters

Summary: We cut weeds from Wilbur Dam Road to the spring. We also did some lopping of rhodys and other woody growth on the way back, but thunderstorms shortened that effort. Another trip will be necessary to complete the lopping.

Reporting: Gether Irick

Date: 07/01/2013

Purpose: Trim weeds

Location: Section 15b, From Hughes Gap to 1/2 mile north

People: Gether Irick

Summary: I cut weeds from Hughes Gap 1/4 to 1/2-mile north. The relocation section had little weed growth and there was no trash at Hughes Gap.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 07/02/2013

Purpose: Cut weeds and check waterbars

Location: Section 13a, US19E to Doll Flats

People: Becky Kinder, Gayle Riddervold

Summary: We walked about 1/2 mile in from the trailhead picking up trash and cutting back more weeds. There was a very muddy spot where we laid stones down in the trail. There was also a new blowdown about 1/4 mile into the trail. Becky and I spent about 20 minutes sawing that stubborn tree. We were able to push the tree about 95% off the trail. One of the thru hikers reported two "new blowdowns" near Dolls Flats. Another hiker reported only one blowdown that he could remember. If we can ever get a dry day, we will drive up to Dolls Flats to investigate.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 07/06/2013

Purpose: Weed and rehab trail

Location: Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US19E

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Dave Clark, Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Gerald Scott

Summary: We cut the weeds and woody growth. Paul and Ted also rehabbed 65 feet of trail near 19E and added five steps. The only place we did not get to was under the power line just north of Bear Branch Road. The blazes are generally in good shape.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 07/06/2013

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14b, North side of Grassy Ridge

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I cut weeds with a swing blade and lopped encroaching branches.

Reporting: Ed Oliver

Date: 07/08/2013

Purpose: Plan storage of materials at Rat Branch and reroute trail around Watauga Lake flooding

Location: Sections 8 and 10

People: Daryl Anderson, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

Summary: Daryl, Bob and Ed met with FS personnel at Rat Branch Work Center to plan storage of Laurel Fork Bridge materials. We also posted signs to temporarily reroute trail at Watauga Lake because of the new high-water level. We blue-blazed the road route of US 321 and Oliver Hollow Rd.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 07/09/2013

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 13a, US19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We went to Doll Flats to investigate reported blowdowns. We first cleared the blue-blazed trail leading to the Spring of overgrowth and removed one small blowdown. We continued down the A.T. for about a mile, sawing five small trees that were blocking the trail. One tree had been cut by someone, but it was still blocking the path. We had to cut eight overhanging branches in order to remove it from the original trail. We also found two logs that were obstructing the path and pushed them down the bank. Farther down the trail, Becky cleaned off a set of rock steps.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 07/10/2013

Purpose: Mow trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the trails across the Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 07/11/2013

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14b, Upper switchbacks north side Grassy Ridge

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I continued with the weed cutting on the north side of Grassy Ridge.

Reporting: Becky Kinder

Date: 07/12/2013

Purpose: Check trail conditions

Location: Section 13a, US19E to Doll Flats

People: Becky Kinder, Gayle Riddervold

Summary: Gayle and I checked the trail starting at 19E. We went in a little over a mile; there were no blowdowns. We cut back some rhododendrons and whacked some MORE weeds. There were some muddy spots, but they were not bad. We saw one female southbound hiker.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 07/12/2013

Purpose: Clear trailside undergrowth

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

People: Craig Haire, Helga Mitchell

Summary: We cleared along the trail with a swing blade and a string trimmer.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 07/13/2013

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 7, Between the spring and Vandeventer Shelter

People: Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

Summary: We finished cutting the weeds on this section between the spring and the shelter, and also on the side trail to the water source. The pipe at the spring is broken and not functioning, but the water is flowing well. We cleared one 8-inch blowdown and cleaned and disassembled two fire pits, one of which we had to douse with water first as it was still smoking from the previous night's use.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 07/13/2013

Purpose: A.T. Maintenance

Location: Section 12d, US 19E to Bishop Hollow

People: Tisha and Steve Perri

Summary: We hiked in from 19E to cut weeds and woody growth from rhodos, and to divert some of the spring water flow in Bishop Hollow. Weeds in the trail north portion of this section were cut previously by the Tuesday crew. We cut the weeds and rhodos in the

power line right-of-way just above Bear Branch. The power company had removed most of the poles and power lines, but two cable lines that were left behind have drooped onto the trail. We attempted to prop these above head height, but they really need to be removed. We also cut out a downed tree which was in proximity of the cables. We'll contact the USFS to inform them of the cables. At the lower end of Bishop Hollow we used a Pulaski in two areas to dig trenches to allow the water to drain more effectively. Other than the cables, the trail south of Bishop Hollow is in good shape.

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: 07/13/2013

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 20b, Spivey Gap to Devils Creek Gap

People: Bill Berry

Summary: The weeds were not as bad as I thought they would be. I cut one tree from the trail between Flat Top Mountain Road and Devils Creek Gap. The bees were a problem; I got hit five times. The Trail in good shape considering the amount of rain we have had. I met seven hikers; two section hikers going South, the other five day hikers going North.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 07/14/2013

Purpose: Maintain shelter and lop

Location: Section 7, Between the spring and Vandeventer Shelter

People: Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

Summary: We picked up trash at the shelter. I brought a new log book, but another hiker had left one there the previous week that was in good shape, so we just left it. We cleared a blowdown just south of the shelter, which was the top of a very large tree that had fallen across the trail. We tried to cut back the rhodys on the hike out, but the previous night's rain caused us to get drenched with each cut, so we decided to leave that for another trip.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 07/14/2013

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 20a, first mile south of Nolichucky River

People: Craig Haire

Summary: We cleared serious blockages both above and below the turn of the first switchback which had caused erosion of the outer edge of the trail. A leaner about head-high was also cleared at the north end of the second switchback.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 07/16/2013

Purpose: Mow Trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds on the Accessible Trail and A.T. across the Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 07/16/2013

Purpose: Clean up trail from recent flooding

Location: Section 8, Shook Branch to Watauga Lake Shelter

People: Brian Paley

Summary: I picked up and hauled out a bag of trash, did some weeding and lopping, and cleared three blowdowns: 4", 6", and 8".

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 07/16/2013

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14b, North side of grassy ridge

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I finished cutting most of the prodigious weeds along this stretch. There are still some to be done just south of Stan Murray shelter.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 07/18/2013

Purpose: Locate and cut blowdown

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

People: Richard Carter, George Thorpe

Summary: We hiked in from Temple Hill Gap to remove a large blowdown requiring chainsaw removal. Unfortunately, George began having difficulty with his knee, which prevented us from hiking in far enough to locate the blowdown. We did some lopping of

branches.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 07/19/2013

Purpose: Weeding

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

People: Michael Watts

Summary: I weeded from Campbell Hollow Road to the creek.

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: 07/20/2013

Purpose: Cut weeds

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

People: Bill Berry

Summary: I was actually having fun cutting weeds. The only sounds I could hear were the birds and the scythe as it cut through the weeds. Then it happen. A sound I had not heard since I was in Southeast Asia. The monsoon hit and the fun was gone. I cut several small trees and lots of weeds, and will return on 7/27/13 to cut more weeds.

The Trail is wet but in good shape. I met three hikers going north on a day hike.

Reporting: Ed Oliver

Date: 07/23/2013

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 10, Hampton blue-blaze

People: Ed Oliver, Ted Mowery

Summary: Ed and Ted cut the weeds and woody growth on the Hampton blue-blaze. The trail from the parking lot to the turn off under the power lines is quite muddy. Cutting back the berm on the side and digging some drainage ditches may improve this. Some hikers are not making the turn to go under the power lines and are continuing up the muddy section. There is evidence of ATV usage in the area.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 07/23/2013

Purpose: Discuss Koonford Bridge replacement

People: Ed Oliver, Ted Mowery, Ken Buchanan, Kim Peters

Summary: We discussed various possibilities for replacing Koonford Bridge. Ken had met with David Quillen the previous day and walked out to look at the bridge. David also has some ideas on how to safely remove the center span. Ed will contact David later and invite him to become involved in this process.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 07/24/2013

Purpose: Clean water bars and do general maintenance

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to about 1 mile beyond shelter

People: Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: Bruce and I cleaned water bars and dug a few new water diversions along a four-mile stretch of trail. We also clipped some annual growth and cut a few small blowdowns. I have one large blowdown that will need a chain saw to cut.