



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

September 2013

[tehcc.org](http://tehcc.org)

## In this Issue

[From the Chair](#)

[2013-14 Deer Hunting Seasons](#)

[Oliver Hollow Road to Wilbur Dam Temporarily Closed](#)

[TEHCC Rental Equipment: REI Kingdom 6 Tent](#)

[Revenue from Tennessee A.T. License Plate Program](#)

[TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)

[Event Schedule – Next Two Months](#)

[Details of Upcoming Events](#)

[For the Record](#)

[A.T. Maintenance Reports](#)

## From the Chair

*Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair*

Did you know that TEHCC co-sponsors a hiking challenge? [South Beyond 6000 \(SB6K\)](#) is recognition for reaching the summits of the 40 highest and most outstanding peaks in the eastern United States, which are located in North Carolina and Tennessee. The SB6K program is jointly operated with the Carolina Mountain Club. The last TEHCC hikes with the "SB6K" prefix were back in 2009-2010; however, maybe a new group will take interest in tackling this adventure.

[Smokies 900 Miler \(S900M\)](#) is another popular hiking challenge to cover the roughly 900 miles of trails in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. However, it takes more time and distance (typically

1,500 miles) to get every segment marked on the official park map. During 2003-2009, Kent and Nancy Wilson led many hikes working towards this challenge which was accomplished in 2011; thus they could provide insight on how to reach this goal.

For members of BSA Sequoyah Council, recognition for hiking on the Appalachian Trail, between Allen Gap (TN70 at NC border) up to Damascus, VA town hall, can be received. A central light blue circular patch has seven rocker segments to show progress towards completing the overall challenge. Troop 48 has an information sheet ([here](#)). An alternative version of the challenge exists with the distance farther up into Virginia.

## 2013-14 Deer Hunting Seasons

*Vic Hasler reporting; update of an article written by Joe DeLoach in 2011*

Each fall, hikers are joined in the woods by hunters who are out for small and big game. Deer hunting is popular in our mountains and during firearms seasons can pose more of a risk to hikers than bow hunting or hunting for other prey. Many of our local trails pass through national forests where hunting is permitted. For 2013-14, deer hunting seasons in our area are as follows.

### **East Tennessee (Sunday hunting permitted)**

Muzzleloading: November 9 – January 5

Gun: November 23 – January 5

Youth: October 26-27, January 11-12

### **Western North Carolina, Watauga and Ashe Counties (Sunday hunting with firearms prohibited, archery allowed)**

Muzzleloading: November 9-22

Gun: November 23 – January 1

### **Other Western NC Counties (Sunday hunting with firearms prohibited, archery allowed)**

Muzzleloading: September 30 – October 12

Gun: November 25 - December 14

### **Southwest Virginia (Sunday hunting prohibited)**

Muzzleloading: November 2-15 and December 14 – January 4

Gun: November 16 – 30

Hikers should note the prohibitions on Sunday hunting in Virginia and North Carolina. Also worth consideration are national park lands such as the Great Smoky Mountains, Blue Ridge Parkway, and Cumberland Gap; state parks such as Warrior's Path, Roan Mountain, and Breaks Interstate; and city parks such as Bays and Buffalo Mountain. Many of these parks border land where hunting is permitted and the borders aren't always evident; Hampton Creek Cove Natural Area and Buffalo Mountain Park are good examples. Some Virginia state parks, including Grayson Highlands, Natural Tunnel, and Hungry Mother, allow some hunting; hikers wishing to visit those parks in the fall are encouraged to contact the park offices. Hunting is permitted along the Appalachian Trail within national forests and it is lawful to hunt from the Trail itself. During hunting season, hikers are urged to wear blaze orange. Packs often cover a hiker's back, so a cap and orange ribbons tied to the pack in addition to an orange jacket or vest are encouraged. If you bring your dog, it should wear orange too. Hiking groups tend to cause more commotion than a lone hiker and hiking with others is strongly encouraged in areas where hunting is permitted. Be especially careful the first few days of the season.

---

## Oliver Hollow Road to Wilbur Dam Temporarily Closed

---

Bear activity has led the Watauga Ranger District to temporarily close portions of the Cherokee National Forest around Watauga Lake from August 22 – December 1, 2013. The Watauga Lake shelter on the Appalachian Trail is closed to camping but the trail is open to through hikers. For details on the closure, please go to the Cherokee National Forest website at [www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/cherokee/alerts-notices/?aid=19558](http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/cherokee/alerts-notices/?aid=19558).

---

## TEHCC Rental Equipment: REI Kingdom 6 Tent (HT-26)

---

### *Vic Hasler Reporting*

After a decade of service, the Eureka! Base Camp Outfitter 6 tents (HT-26 and 27) were retired. One has since been replaced with a REI Kingdom 6 tent purchased from REI (Asheville) for \$528. It's definitely a campground tent, weighing just less than 20 pounds. The hoop design with vertical ends gives a 6' 3" peak height to stand up. A central divider creates two rooms of which one can become a screen room when the fly is rolled up or removed. Set-up will take two folks about 10-15 minutes, but is reported to be easier than the Habitat tents (HT-15 and 21). The club did purchase the fitted footprint to protect the bottom of the tent. Also get at least eight heavy duty stakes to line out the tent in case of wind. For more information, contact [Terry Dougherty](#), Rental Equipment Coordinator.



---

## Revenue from Tennessee A.T. License Plate Program

---

### *Joe DeLoach reporting*

The Tennessee Appalachian Trail license plate program is paying dividends. Ed Montgomery conceived the idea for this program and Ed's son designed the plate; Ed, Jake Mitchell, and others worked to make it a reality. Since then, there has been year-over-year growth in revenue generated by the license plate. Over \$111,000 has been raised to support the A.T. in Tennessee since the first funds were received in early 2011. As of October 2012, there were 2257 Tennessee A.T. license plates on the road, likely to have surpassed 2500 by now. Along with the North Carolina license plate program, which was established 6 years earlier, almost \$1 million has been raised in the two states. Tennessee license plate funds are used by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to support projects in Tennessee and to assist with land protection. They are also made available to organizations in the form of grants. This year, TEHCC applied for and received a grant to cover dinner for our Hard Core hiker volunteers after their work on relocating a Trail section on White Rocks Mountain. Funds were also provided to the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards who handle section maintenance in the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness Study Area and helped on the relocation at Turkeypen Gap on Iron Mountain. We thank those who conceived of and worked on the license plate, and those who have purchased it, for their support of the Appalachian Trail in our state.

---

## Welcome TEHCC Welcomes New Members

---

Thomas Markley

Christopher Stamper

Pui Kwan Oleszczuk

Christopher Fain

Liang Wang

Mason Myers

Adam Green

Chris Campbell

Karen Salazar

Mayra Nayeli Gonzalez Saldana

Kevin Singleton

---

## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

---

For the latest, up-to-date information, see [tehcc.org/schedule](http://tehcc.org/schedule)

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
September 8	A.T.: Roan High Knob Shelter/Cloudland Trail	<a href="#">Vic Hasler</a>	423-239-0388
September 14	Natural Tunnel State Park, VA	<a href="#">Tim Schaefer</a>	423-302-0846
September 20-22	French Broad River Trip, Hot Springs, NC	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
September 21	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a>	423-366-0128
September 28-29	Nantahala and Tuckaseegee River Trips, NOC, NC	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
October 12	Fall Color Hike, Beartown Mountain	<a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a>	423-753-7263

---

## 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](mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org)), for dates and meeting places.

#### Tuesday 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 p.m. 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 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, 7 – 9 p.m.

For event details, go to <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/2013/06/27/kingsport-aquatic-center-kayak-session/>

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools!

Leaders: [Kim Peters](#), 423-366-0128, or [Joe DeLoach](#)

Come out for a day hike somewhere on our beautiful section of trail on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month and help with 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

#### A.T.: Roan High Knob Shelter/Cloudland Trail, Sunday, September 8, 2013

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

This hike is the replacement for the rain-cancelled section walk scheduled back on August 18<sup>th</sup>. It has also been redesigned to eliminate the shuttle, so that just one car is needed for an easy stroll around former Cloudland hotel area. First, from the parking lot we'll head northbound on the Appalachian Trail to the short side path up to Roan High Knob shelter. At 6,285', it is the highest elevation shelter on the entire A.T. and of unique design being the cabin for a fire warden who patrolled from a former fire tower that was nearby. Then backtracking to the parking lot, we will take the short 1.2 mile [Cloudland Trail](#) over to Roan High Bluff overlook for views as shown on the right. Departure time is 1 p.m. from the parking lot below the McDonalds in Colonial Heights. It is an 80-minute drive down thru Elizabethton to reach Carver's Gap. Expected return is between 6-7 p.m. depending on how long we linger to check out the shelter and enjoy the views. A light jacket is recommended as it may be more "fall" like than down in town, and also water to sip.



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

Contact: [Tim Schaefer](mailto:Tim.Schaefer@tehcc.org), 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.

## French Broad River Trip and Hang, Hot Springs, NC, September 20-22, 2013

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

Debbie will lead a Section 9 river trip on the French Broad (Class II-III) on Saturday, September 21. There may also be a section 11 river trip (Class I) if someone volunteers to lead it. Others are planning a hike. After the paddle on Saturday, there will be a hot dog supper and a raffle for hammock and camping gear. For details, check the schedule at [tehcc.org/schedule](http://tehcc.org/schedule) and/or contact Debbie Briscoe.

## Nantahala and Tuckasegee River Trips, during NOC's GAF, September 28-29, 2013

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

Debbie will lead whitewater trips on the Nantahala (Class II-III) on Saturday, September 28, and on the Tuckasegee River (Class I-II) on Sunday, September 29. These trips are in conjunction with the Nantahala Outdoor Center's Guest Appreciation Festival to be held that weekend at their Wesser Campus near Bryson City, NC. Information about the festival can be found at <http://www.noc.com/nocom/festivals-a-events/gaf/>. For river trip details, check the schedule at [tehcc.org/schedule](http://tehcc.org/schedule) and/or contact Debbie Briscoe.

## Fall Color Hike, Beartown Mountain, Saturday, October 12, 2013

Contact: [Joe DeLoach](mailto:Joe.DeLoach@tehcc.org), 423-753-7263

We tried this one as our 2013 Spring Wildflower Hike but were repelled by heavy rain and mud; so let's try it again as a Fall Color Hike. It used to be a gruesome 1.4 mile, 1440-foot climb (and a very slick descent) from Hughes Gap to Beartown Mountain, part of one of the steepest grades on the Appalachian Trail in the south. Now, after relocations completed in 2012, it is about 2.5 miles and a very enjoyable hike through curves, switchbacks, and open woods to the edge of Roan Mountain's spruce-fir forest. Maples and birch, among other trees in these woods, should supply good color, and along the way are views especially into North Carolina. We'll walk into beautiful Ash Gap for lunch and take a look at the remaining work to relocate the equally gruesome final climb up Roan. Departure times are 8:30 from Colonial Heights and 9:00 from Johnson City. Be ready for any kind of weather; we'll go above 5400 feet on Beartown Mountain. For more information or to sign up for the hike, please contact Joe.



---

## For the Record

---

### Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot, July 28, 2013

*Vic Hasler reporting*

With the rain leaving the area by noon, a large group of 13 hikers headed up the A.T. to see the washed views of surrounding green-carpeted mountains from Beauty Spot. Visibility was at least 30 miles. For having had a recent downpour, the trail path was surprisingly well drained, thus muddy only in a couple of places. The group was led by three scouts from Troop 48 working on the Second Class map and compass requirement. A few geocaches were found along the way to add to the fun. Participating were David Berkley, Sam Houston, and Sam Tallent of BSA Troop 48, the Clark family (Jason, Aneta, Greydon, Cohen), Paula Cahill, Alice Tallent, Ginny Tallent, Serita Blankenbecler, Gerald Scott, and Vic Hasler.

### Babes on the Waves, August 9-11, 2013

*Debbie Briscoe reporting*

Once a year the APes lead a paddling trip for the women and we've coined it "Babes on the Waves!" We do it on a reasonably easy whitewater river so the new paddlers can participate. The last couple of years we've had it on the Hiwassee River which is class I-II. If a few guys go, it's okay, because we don't discriminate. This year there were ten gals and three guys.... And it was a total success!!

We stayed at Gee Creek Campground in Delano, TN, which can accommodate many hammocks. Joanne reserved four nice sites together and we had room for many tents and hammocks. Eight out of eleven were actually in hammocks. It rains a lot this time of year in that part of TN, so it just made sense to be above ground. I had made two hammocks and we surprised Pema and Joanne with them.



We cooked and ate big on Friday night at camp as we always do. Kathy, Donna, Marie, Kathie and I contributed our favorite dishes. After we stuffed ourselves, we went to a program in the park about snakes. We got to hold the snakes and learned all about them.

The next day we organized our paddle and had a great day. When we were almost to the last rapid a big storm rolled in and we waited it out a bit before heading to the take-out. After loading up, running shuttle, and a quick run back to the campground for hot showers, we all went out for Italian cuisine. After dinner we had a nice fire with s'mores to end the evening. It was a great weekend and I'm already looking forward to next year.



### **APes Nolichucky Gorge First-Timers' Trip and Lower Nolichucky River Trip, August 24, 2013**

*Wesley R. Bradley reporting*

We had a nearly perfect day with mostly clear sunny skies and temps in the low 80's for our river trips. The river flow was around 1100 CFS on the Embreeville Gauge and this was a prime level for the first timers ready to take on the mighty Nolichucky Gorge! We organized both a Nolichucky Gorge trip (Class III-IV) led by Wesley R. Bradley and a Lower Nolichucky River trip (Class II) led by Debbie Briscoe.

The Noli Gorge trip participants met at USA Raft at the take-out to load all of the boats on the USA bus for a shuttle up to the put-in in Poplar, NC. The group managed to load all 29 boats on top of the bus and get rolling toward the put-in in less than an hour with all our gear! An impressive feat by itself! We had 29 participants on the Gorge trip with 9 first-timers. We split into smaller groups at the put-in and paired up experienced gorge boaters to show lines and set safety for our first timers. There were some swims and even a broken paddle during the trip, but thanks to good preparedness and safety everyone made it to the take-out with big smiles! Good times, good times!



The Lower Noli trip had a great turnout too! Debbie led a group of 16 paddlers with two first-timers on a run from the USA Raft Outpost to the parking area take-out near the Sawmill below Devil's Looking Glass Rapid. Our local Team River Runners Chapter also rallied 8 paddlers with 4 first-timers to run the Lower Noli trip in conjunction with Debbie's trip. Good times were had by all on the Lower!

After getting off the river, we all met back at the USA Raft Outpost for a picnic dinner catered by Salsarita's Fresh Cantina. We enjoyed tasty burritos and tacos with all the fixings for the main course! Some APEs brought really good desserts to share with the rest of the group too! After the meal many stayed around for fellowship and river tales to top off a great day!

Steve Moore Noli Gorge Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lr3UjOvZnrM>



---

## A.T. Maintenance Reports

---

**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 7/13/2013

**Purpose:** General maintenance

**Location:** Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter to Hump Mountain

**People:** Lynn DiFiore

**Summary:** The culvert on Roaring Creek Road (behind the gate) was blocked and water was forced onto the road; so I spent an hour with the shovel from the shelter trying to clear it. I was able to get some flow through it, trying to save what is left of the road; and I notified Pisgah RD. I lopped branches and cleared minor blowdowns from the barn to Bradley Gap, and also attempted to drain excessive water from the trail, as it is very wet and muddy. Ongoing rains have created numerous springs along this section. I saw many day hikers and a few backpackers.

**Reporting:** Brian Paley

**Date:** 7/28/2013

**Purpose:** Clean up trail from recent flooding

**Location:** Section 8, US 321 to Forest Service gate

**People:** Brian Paley

**Summary:** I cut weeds from US 321 to the Forest Service gate, cleared three blowdowns, picked up trash from Shook Branch to the bog bridge, and painted new blazes on the short relo section we built a few weeks ago. With a few more days of dry weather, we should be able to remove the detour.

**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 7/29/2013

**Purpose:** General maintenance

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

**People:** Lynn DiFiore

**Summary:** I lopped low hanging branches and cleared small blowdowns from the barn to Stan Murray. There was not a lot of trash at either shelter (thanks Kat!), mainly just micro trash. I cut back a few briars when they were overhanging the trail. Several cars were at the trailhead, but I saw no hikers and no one in either shelter. The Trail is drying out a little, but still has a few muddy sections.

**Reporting:** Ed Oliver

**Date:** 7/29/2013

**Purpose:** Put out pin flags for trail relocation

**Location:** Section 11a, Between Coon Den Falls Trail and White Rocks Mountain

**People:** Ed Oliver

**Summary:** Ed put out pin flags on one remaining 900-foot relocation.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 7/29/2013

**Purpose:** Cut large blowdown

**Location:** Section 16a, About one mile south of Hughes Gap

**People:** Bruce Darby, John Beudet, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Bruce, John, and I hiked in and John cut the large blowdown. It took more cutting than he had planned, but all worked out in the end. Some members of the Old Timers Hiking Club passed us on their way to Greasy Creek Gap and they thanked us for our work.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 7/30/2013

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and clean water bars

**Location:** Section 4a, US 421 to Double Springs Shelter

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** Essentially, we cut back all the weeds and brush. Also, we cleaned the water bars, which made a significant difference. There were many signs of bears and several were briefly seen.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 8/1/2013

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 9b, Hampton trailhead to Pond Flats

**People:** Joe Morris

**Summary:** I performed routine maintenance; this section is now reasonably clear. I encountered a large blowdown just north of the blue-blaze/A.T. intersection that will require a two-person hand saw. I removed enough debris to make the trail passable.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/3/2013

**Purpose:** Prepare and dig relocation

**Location:** Section 2a, Backbone Rock Trail

**People:** John Beaudet, Dave Clark, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Lisa Karst, Tom Baker

**Summary:** We set some more rock steps at the top of the climb from the parking lot. We marked off sections for Watauga College, flagged some more of relocations, and dug some trail.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 8/4/2013

**Purpose:** Section maintenance

**Location:** Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Cloudland

**People:** Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We gave this section a thorough clipping; so thorough that we ran out of time to blaze. But the blazes look good enough to go into 2014. There were lots of briars and ingrowth of trees and rhododendron, with only a couple of small trees to cut. We replaced the shelter register. The area around the shelter looked the best Joe has ever seen it, thanks to Roan Ridgerunner Katrya'na Keely.

**Reporting:** Brian Paley

**Date:** 8/4/2013

**Purpose:** Remove detour

**Location:** Section 8, Shook Branch to Watauga Lake Shelter

**People:** Brian Paley

**Summary:** I picked up and hauled out three large bags of trash from the recent flooding of Watauga Lake. I removed the detour signs.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 8/6/2013

**Purpose:** Whack weeds and make minor trail improvements

**Location:** Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats

**People:** Tim Stewart, Bob Peoples, Brian Paley, Bill Murdoch

**Summary:** Brian and I used swing blades to clear weeds and other encroaching plants from the trail. We cleared from the trailhead to the top. Bob and Bill used digging tools to clean out steps and to do minor maintenance in several areas. We also had several pairs of loppers that we used to cut back rhododendrons. There are numerous low-growth rhodos which may be a problem in the future. The 'pond' was dry, but the spring on the southside was flowing well.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/6/2013

**Purpose:** Drain mud holes and cut rhodos

**Location:** Section 10, Hampton blue-blaze to between two large bridges

**People:** Ed Oliver, Ted Mowery, Jeff McDonald

**Summary:** Ed, Ted, and hiker Jeff drained some large mud holes from the trail. They spent the rest of day cutting rhodos and small blowdowns. More remains to be done.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/6/2013

**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns and rehab trail

**Location:** Section 9b, Pond Flats to Hampton blue-blaze trail

**People:** Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Joe Morris

**Summary:** We cut two good-sized oak blowdowns off the railroad grade. Also, we rehabbed about 200 feet of trail that was sloughing amongst the switchbacks going up the south side of Pond Mountain. More remains to be done.

**Reporting:** Garry S Luttrell

**Date:** 8/7/2013

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and clear path

**Location:** Section 15b, Roan Mountain

**People:** Don Baker, Gether Irick, Garry S Luttrell

**Summary:** We all agreed that the weeds were the worst any of us had ever seen on this section 15b. Don brought his string trimmer, which really did a good job of cutting. But the bad news: He ran out of gas about half way to Hughes Gap. In fact, all of us weed-whackers were about out of gas near the end of the day. It was a nice cool day to work, although we did get rained on and had to pull our rain gear out of our packs.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 8/9/2013

**Purpose:** Review of Roan Ridgerunner

**Location:** ATC office in Asheville

**People:** Joe DeLoach, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri

**Summary:** Bob and Joe attended and Steve participated by teleconference in a meeting to review the first season in many years of having a ridgerunner along portions of the TEHCC AT section. John Odell from ATC hosted the meeting, also attended by Kristy Urquhart, Chris Coxen, and Judy Murray from SAHC, Alice Cohen from the Cherokee NF, Dave Danley from the Pisgah NF, ATC volunteer Tip Ray, and 2013 Roan Ridgerunner Katrya'na Keely. All agreed that the Roan Ridgerunner was a very worthwhile endeavor in 2013, which Kat performed well, and that we'd like to see repeated in 2014. Improvement opportunities are to select and train the ridgerunner earlier, to better define the messages they should convey, and to have full USFS participation in the training.

**Reporting:** Terry Oldfield

**Date:** 8/11/2013

**Purpose:** Maintain Double Springs Shelter

**Location:** Section 4b, TN 91 Double Springs Shelter

**People:** John Frey, Terry Oldfield

**Summary:** We hiked in to Double Springs Shelter from TN 91, cutting back a few weeds (mostly greenbriers) on the way. The trail is clear except for a few easy step-overs. At the shelter, we picked up trash, cleaned the gutter, and left a new log book and broom. We met three south-bound hikers at the shelter. They said the trail from the north was clear except for some stinging nettles. Upon return we saw that a mama cow on Osborne Farm was very distressed, as her calf was in the woods outside the fence. Back at the parking lot, we met Lone Wolf, who called the farmer to let him know.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 8/12/2013

**Purpose:** Mow grass

**Location:** Section 4b, Osborne Farm

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed and trimmed weeds at the trail across the Osborne Farm. We also hauled gravel to fill part of the eroded area on the Accessible Trail.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/13/2013

**Purpose:** Sharpen tools

**Location:** Carl's house, for work on Section 2a

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** We sharpened pick and cutter mattocks in preparation for Watauga College.

**Reporting:** Gayle Riddervold

**Date:** 8/14/2013

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 13a, US 19E to Dolls Flats

**People:** Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

**Summary:** We hiked in about 1.25 miles. We picked up trash at the trailhead. Becky manually wacked weeds while I trimmed back some rhododendrons. We came upon two small blowdowns that were on top of each other. Becky sawed one tree which freed the tree beneath it and we were able to push it off the trail. We saw one hiker who reported there were no other blowdowns up to Doll Flats.

**Reporting:** Brian Paley

**Date:** 8/14/2013

**Purpose:** Clean up trail and check shelter



**Location:** Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to Watauga Lake Shelter

**People:** Brian Paley

**Summary:** I cut weeds and rhodos, cleared three blowdowns, cleaned the steps near road, and posted a laminated mileage sign to replace the metal one that was ripped off. I replaced the log book at the shelter, which was full, and hauled out a bag of trash.

**Reporting:** Bill Berry

**Date:** 8/17/2013

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and clear blow downs

**Location:** Section 20b, Devils Creek Gap to Temple Hill Gap

**People:** Bill Berry

**Summary:** I cut weeds and removed blowdowns. There is a big tree across the trail 1.25 miles north of Devils Creek Gap, and a second one across the trail 0.75 miles north of No Business Shelter. Both can be crossed. The trail in good shape.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 8/17/2013

**Purpose:** Whack weeds

**Location:** Section 11b, Moreland Gap Shelter to Canute Place

**People:** Tim Stewart

**Summary:** I hiked in from the shelter-access trail. The spring was flowing and the shelter looked okay; shovel, rake and broom were present. I removed some trash and also removed ash from the fire pit. I then proceeded to Canute Place with a swing blade. I cleared long grass at Canute Place and down to the spring which was flowing, then hiked out.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 8/17/2013

**Purpose:** Maintain section

**Location:** Section 13b, Doll Flats to edge of Hump Mountain

**People:** Max Banas, Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** The section from Doll Flats to Hump Mountain has had no attention since a blowdown-clearing trip in early May; and it showed with tall nettles, jewelweed, and briars obscuring the Trail in places. Thanks to great help from first-timer, but experienced, trail maintainer Max Banas, we took care of the annual growth through the wooded section. There were no blowdowns, just a little trash. Doll Flats itself only needed a little mowing. We got some string-trimmer carrying practice before using swing blades the rest of the way. Hopefully we can recapture the momentum from some good 3<sup>rd</sup>-Saturday turnouts earlier this year for outings this fall.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 8/20/2013

**Purpose:** Dig trail relocation

**Location:** Section 11a, Near White Rocks Mountain

**People:** Sydney Woelfel, Dalton Fisher, Quinn Pickering-Polstra, Trisha Kretzer, Bethany Kelly, Bradley Hensley, Joseph Shumway, Cassie Fenton, Gunter Walls, James Smith, Jared Lusk, Adam Lambert, Jeremy Wooddell, Renee Reber, Greg Kramer, Lilly Kramer, Joe Morris, Brian Paley, Pat Loven, Ken Buchanan, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** With the help of students from Wright State University (Ohio), we dug approximately 300 feet of trail. The digging was fairly easy, but there is still much to do on this section north of White Rocks Mountain. Back at the trailhead, Bob passed out patches to the students. It was a good day.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 8/20/2013

**Purpose:** Cut back annual growth

**Location:** Section 10, Hampton Trailhead to the second bridge

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** We cut back annual growth from the Hampton Trailhead to the second bridge in Laurel Fork Gorge.

**Reporting:** Bill Fuller

**Date:** 8/22/2013

**Purpose:** Scout and cut brush

**Location:** Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats

**People:** Bill Fuller

**Summary:** I scouted the entire section and cut some brush along the way. It looks like someone cut a lot of brush just a couple of days before me. To whoever it was... thank you! The section is in good shape.