



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

April 2014

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

## In this Issue

[From the Chair](#)

[TEHCC Fall 2013 Dinner Meeting](#)

[A.T. Maintainers Needed](#)

[TEHCC Rental Equipment: HB-30 – Kelty Journey  
Child Carrier](#)

[40th Meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy](#)

[A. T. Specialty License Plate Revenue Exceeds \\$1  
Million in Southern Region](#)

[TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)

[Event Schedule – Next Two Months](#)

[Details of Upcoming Events](#)

[For the Record](#)

[A.T. Maintenance Reports](#)

[Dinner Meeting Reservation Form](#)

## From the Chair

*Brien Lewis, Steering Committee Chair*

A little about Brien: I am excited to be the TEHCC Steering Committee Chair during 2014 and look forward to a great year of hikes and events. While my hiking resume is not huge, I have spent many an hour wandering around the Great Smokies and other Tennessee/North Carolina/Virginia State Parks, as well as coursing through the trails at the bottom of large rock faces and boulder fields throughout the region in search for rocks to climb.

Coming up in April we have some exciting hikes planned (see below), our spring dinner meeting featuring guest speaker Dave Ramsey (April 25th), and the annual Gear Swap held outside of the employee center parking lot on South Wilcox Drive the day after (April 26th). This event is a great time to dust off the equipment that never gets used and to make some new friends. Hopefully you can join us for at least one of these activities.

## TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting, Friday, April 25, 2014

Time to enjoy fellowship as the outdoor season begins...

Our evening program is on "Amazing Places in The Tennessee Blue Ridge" by David Ramsey. The Appalachian Trail closely follows the North Carolina–Tennessee border along the main Appalachian crest. Although the wild and scenic qualities of the lands that lie on each side of this boundary are virtually equal, those of the Tennessee region have often been overshadowed by their North Carolina counterparts. This program will explore the Tennessee Blue Ridge ending with an update about Rocky Fork.

Speaker's bio:

- Native and resident of Unicoi County, TN
- Outdoor writer and photographer with a focus on Appalachian conservation
- Field & Stream Magazine / Toyota 2011 National Hero of Conservation
- Budweiser / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation Conservationist of the Year Finalist
- 10 (or more) year A.T. maintainer
- 18 year manager at Mahoney's Outfitters

Event	Time	Details
Spring Dinner Meeting	5:30 pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
Happy "Trails" Hour	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Beer and wine (donations accepted), or BYOB
Dinner: BBQ with sides Dessert Tea/Coffee	6:30 pm - 7:15 pm	Catered by <a href="#">Phil's Dream Pit</a> (\$12 per adult, \$6 per child)
Club Business	7:15 pm - 8:00 pm	- Update of club activities - Awards
<b>Amazing Places in the Tennessee Blue Ridge</b>	<b>8:00 pm-9:00 pm</b>	<b>David Ramsey</b>

There is no charge for attending the program only, but if you would like to eat, please submit your reservation by end of Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. A reservation form is located at the [end of this newsletter](#).

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## A.T. Maintainers Needed

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### *Carl Fritz reporting*

Our club is responsible for maintaining over 130 miles of Appalachian Trail between Spivey Gap near Erwin and the TN/VA state line near Damascus, VA. This is a major responsibility which requires a lot of volunteers.

We are organizing several teams of volunteers to help maintain some selected trail sections. The maintenance work will involve painting the blazes that identify the trail, lopping new growth along the trail, cleaning water bars if present, removing small trees that have fallen across the trail and cutting weeds as needed.

Each team will be led by an experienced maintainer and will make two or three trips each year. These trips will be scheduled on a Saturday or Sunday to accommodate those who work, although other days are possible depending upon the schedule of the team members. If you volunteer for a team, you will not be committing to going out each time, but just committing that you will go out whenever possible. Our goal is to have about eight people on each team and hopefully half will be available for each trip. As you know more hands make light work.

No prior maintenance experience is necessary to participate on these teams and all necessary tools will be provided by the club. In addition to upholding our club's responsibility to maintain the AT, a secondary goal is to introduce people to the personal satisfaction and social joys of trail maintenance.

Would you be interested in signing up for one of these maintenance teams? Or would you prefer to have information about other special maintenance efforts that happen on the weekend or even during the week? If so, please contact Carl Fritz at 423-477-4669, [atvolunteer@tehcc.org](mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org); or Kim Peters at 423-366-0128, [atmaint@tehcc.org](mailto:atmaint@tehcc.org).

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## TEHCC Rental Equipment: HB-30 – Kelty Journey Child Carrier

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### *Article update from November 2006*

Due to recent inquiries, the club would like to highlight that it does have a child carrier. Don't try to carry a squirming infant or toddler on your shoulders or in arms. Use this pack to give them their own "car seat" and save your back so that you can enjoy the great outdoors.

The carrier has many features. It has spring-loaded legs to stand up the carrier while a child is lifted and lowered into the harness. Warning – do not let a child climb into the carrier to seat themselves as it will tip over.

The carrier has a number of adjustments to fit 15 - 22 inch torso and 27 - 45 inch waist/hips. The relative height of the child versus your head can also be adjusted within a six inch range. The pack weight is roughly seven pound with a maximum load limit of 50 pounds for child + pack + gear. Remember to not overload yourself, thus recommend no more than 25-30% of the adult body weight.



There is a 500 cubic inch pocket for toys and child essentials. Two netting holders are available (to provide water for you; bottle for infant). The storage space is actually a detachable kid pack with shoulder straps, in case your child wants to carry his own load (for a few yards – right?). We also purchased the removable sun/rain cover. It collapses and snaps to the back when not in use, thus how stored for Bldg 310.

When done, please ensure that the carrier is clean from sticky fingers and other mishaps. The "cockpit" is removable for washing. This rental will give you a needed carrier for the occasional use or a chance to evaluate whether you would want to invest in your own for regular hiking outings.

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## 40th Meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy

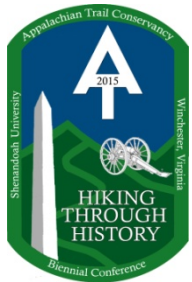
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Dates: July 17 to 24, 2015

Location: Shenandoah University – Winchester, VA

Hosted by: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and Mountain Club of Maryland

ATC Event Page: [2015 ATC Biennial Conference: Hiking Through History](#)



The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) holds a biennial conference every two years which includes 150 hikes, numerous workshops, and excursions to local areas of interest. The conference also includes the required ATC biennial membership meeting. Each evening there are exciting adventure presentations and stellar entertainment. The event draws between 900 and 1,200 people from around the world, but primarily from locations along the nearly 2,200 mile Appalachian Trail (A.T.).

Volunteer opportunities are available for leading hikes, presenting workshops, helping on-site during the event, and many more areas that may be of interest. There is a volunteer form at the ATC webpage noted above that can be completed and submitted to the Volunteer Coordinator, Tom Johnson, at [volunteers2015@patc.net](mailto:volunteers2015@patc.net).

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## Appalachian Trail Specialty License Plate Revenue Exceeds \$1 Million in Southern Region

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The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) is pleased to announce that revenue received from the sale of Appalachian Trail (A.T.) specialty license plates in Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia recently exceeded the \$1 million mark. The [A.T. License Plate Program](#) was established in 2005 in order to support the ATC in its work to sustain the Trail into the future.

“The Appalachian Trail Conservancy says thank you to all of the Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia residents who have purchased the Appalachian Trail specialty license plate,” said

Morgan Sommerville, ATC regional director. “Funds from the plates support a number of projects that preserve and protect the Appalachian Trail.”

Money generated from the sales and renewals of A.T. specialty license plates in Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia is used to complete a broad range of projects along the A.T.’s southern region through the License Plate Grant Program. Projects that receive funds include trail and facilities maintenance, environmental monitoring and natural heritage projects and education and community outreach.

In addition to Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia, Virginia also offers its residents A.T. specialty license plates. Depending on the state, a portion of the cost of each plate (between \$10 and \$20) is returned to the ATC.

For more information about the A.T. License Plate Program, visit [www.appalachiantrail.org/plates](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/plates).

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## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

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Daniel Woodruff	Heather Singler	Sean Roden	Daphne Pearson	Steven Givens
Rebecca Girod	Steven Duncan	Daniel Chase	Heather Becker	Greg Back
Cindy Liew	Seth Fortune	Kathleen White	Andrew Letsinger	Steven Clark
Chris Thompson	Rebecca Stout	Brandon Church	Leo Quesinberry	Sara Cook
Anissa Childress	Corbin Calhoun			

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## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
April 6	Laurel Fork Gorge	Tim McClain	423-239-5353
April 13	Buffalo Mountain Park	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
April 15	Steering Team Meeting	<a href="#">Brien Lewis</a>	chair@tehcc.org
April 19	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday, Hiking with Tools	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a>	423-366-0128
April 25	Spring Dinner Meeting	<a href="#">Brien Lewis</a>	chair@tehcc.org
April 26	Outdoor Gear Swap	<a href="#">Brien Lewis</a>	chair@tehcc.org
April 26	AT Maintenance with ASU Trail Crew	<a href="#">Carl Fritz</a>	423-477-4669
April 27	Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob	<a href="#">Mike Watts</a>	423-963-1593
May 3	Spring Wildflower Hike - Gentry Falls	<a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a>	423-753-7263
May 4	South Holston Spillway	<a href="#">Barry Griggs</a>	423-239-5676 or 423-863-4590
May 11	Doe River Gorge	TBD	
May 16-18	Bluestone River Trip	<a href="#">Terry Dougherty</a>	423-502-5177
May 18-19	Hardcore 2014	<a href="#">Carl Fritz</a>	423-477-4669
May 18	Kiner Hollow Waterfalls, Laurel Run Park	<a href="#">Garry Luttrell</a>	423-239-9854 or 423-956-1822
May 24	Bays Mountain Park - Lakeside Trail	Bob Miller	
May 25	Little Stony Creek Falls, Hanging Rock Rec Area	TBD	

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## Details of Upcoming Events

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### Recurring Events

#### Tuesday Evenings: Johnson City Roll Practice

Come join the [J.A.W.](#), [Mahoney's Outfitters](#), some [APEs](#), and other paddlers from around our region at the Freedom Hall Pool for tips & tricks about basic kayaking skills and learning 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 fellowshipping 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.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Please note: The J.A.W. does provide 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...) for these sessions. If you are just starting out in the sport and do not yet have your own equipment, please post a message on the [APE's yahoo group site](#) or contact me with this link:

<http://worldkayakblogs.com/wildwildwes/contact-me/>

We will try our best to get you outfitted for the night! Also feel free to contact me for any other questions or comments you may have with the above link.

#### Most Thursdays: Weekly A.T. Trail Maintenance

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 135-mile section each week, usually on Thursdays. Contact Carl Fritz, 423-477-4669 ([atvolunteer@tehcc.org](mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org)), for dates and meeting places.

## **Thursday Evenings: Kayak Session, Kingsport Aquatic Center, 7 – 9 pm**

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

## **3rd Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools!**

Contact: Kim Peters, [atmaint@tehcc.org](mailto:atmaint@tehcc.org), 423-366-0128

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](#) for details and meeting time and place.

## **Scheduled Events**

### **F/B: Laurel Fork Gorge - Hampton Blue Blaze, Sunday, April 6, 1 pm – 6 pm**

Leader: Tim McClain, 423-239-5353

Rating: Easy 5.5 mile round trip hike with little elevation change

Let's kick off the 2014 hiking season with a favorite jaunt to the Laurel Fork Falls on the blue-blaze route. Spring rains should have the falls flowing well. We'll leave Colonial Heights at 1:00 pm to arrive at the Hampton trailhead by 2:00PM. Expected return is at 6 pm.

### **F/B: Buffalo Mountain Park - White Rock Overlook, Sunday, April 13, 1 pm – 5 pm**

Leader: Vic Hasler, 423-239-0388

Rating: Moderate 3 mile round trip hike with ~1100 ft elevation up, and then back down

Where: Buffalo Mountain Park, Highridge Road, Johnson City, TN, United States ([map](#))

A great view of the I-26 valley and mountains to the east is enjoyed by a steep walk in this park. This hike will definitely give you a workout if you haven't been exercising in 2014. Early wildflowers are expected along the trail. We'll leave Colonial Heights at 1:00 pm or Johnson City at 1:20 pm to arrive at the park trailhead by 1:30 pm. Expected return is at 5 pm.

### **TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, April 15, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

Contact: [Brien Lewis](mailto:Brien.Lewis@tehcc.org), [chair@tehcc.org](mailto:chair@tehcc.org)

Location: Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN, Bldg 75, Room 407

The Steering Committee guides the general program for the club. Meetings are held monthly at lunchtime and are open to all TEHCC members. Members who are not current Eastman employees need to contact a member of the [Steering Committee](#) at least the day prior to arrange for a temporary pass.

### **Outdoor Gear Swap, Eastman Employee Center, April 26, 8:00 am - Noon**

Contact: [Brien Lewis](mailto:Brien.Lewis@tehcc.org), [chair@tehcc.org](mailto:chair@tehcc.org)

Mark your calendars. TEHCC will sponsor an outdoor gear swap again this year. The event will be held on Saturday, April 26th, 2014 from 8 am to noon in the parking lot of the Eastman Employee Center, 400 South Wilcox Drive, Kingsport. Think backpacking, biking, camping, canoeing, climbing, fishing, hiking, kayaking, paddling, skiing, and snowboarding. Whether you have equipment that you no longer need or you need a piece of outdoor equipment to add to your collection, this gear swap is for you! Come join in the fun; swap, sell, or buy outdoor equipment or just come swap some good stories!

Everything at this equipment swap needs to be directly related to outdoor activities. (Sorry, no ammo, arrows, guns, or long knives due to site regulations.) There is no cost to display, browse, trade, talk about gear, and swap stories.

### **A.T. - Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob, Sunday, April 27, 1:00 pm – 6:30 pm**

Leader: Mike Watts, 423-963-1593

Rating: Easier 4.4 mile round trip hike with 825-ft elevation gain on excellent trail

This hike is along the Appalachian Trail through hardwood forest to great views at Little Rock Knob (elevation 4918'). The overlook into North Carolina is expansive. The improvements in this trail section have really made this hike much easier. We'll leave Colonial Heights at 1:00 pm. Alternatively, you can meet us in Johnson City by 1:20 pm or at the Hughes Gap trailhead at 1:45 pm. Expected return is roughly 6-6:30 pm.

### **Spring Wildflower Hike - Gentry Falls, Saturday, May 3, 2014**

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

Rating: Wet and fun

Gentry Falls, sometimes called Gentry Creek Falls, is one of Northeast Tennessee's more unusual and lesser-known waterfalls. There

are two drops, each about 35' high, in a rocky gorge with prolific spring wildflowers. Also beautiful in the fall with great foliage, it is more challenging in the spring with about 15 creek crossings in the 2.3 mile walk (each way) to the falls. Formerly there were a few bridges as indicated in the TEHCC Trail Wiki, but they are all gone. Fortunately the creek is not wide and is easy to wade unless the water is REALLY high, in which case we will go somewhere else. It is also not at all a steep hike, and the kids might like splashing around in the creek. Everyone WILL get their feet wet though, so bring a change of shoes for the ride home (good hiking etiquette anyway). We'll meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between McDonald's and State of Franklin Bank at 8:30 on Saturday May 3. We'll go through Abingdon and Damascus, so there won't be a Johnson City meeting point. Bring lunch which we'll plan to have at the falls. Please contact Joe in advance if you're interested, or for more information.

### **F/B: South Holston Spillway, Sunday, May 4, 1 pm – 5 pm**

*Leader: Barry Griggs, 423-239-5676 or 423-863-4590*

*Rating: Easy 3.5 mile in/out hike with less than 300-ft elevation change*

A nice walk in the forest along a firm gravel service road down to the TVA lake. The gradually sloping path skirts along the southwest shore before ending at the spillway. We'll leave Colonial Heights at 1:30 pm for the 45-minute drive to near the South Holston Lake dam. We should be back before 6 pm.

### **F/B: Doe River Gorge, Sunday, May 11, 1 pm – 6 pm**

*Leader: TBD*

*Rating: Easy 5 mile round trip hike along a railroad grade with just 230 ft elevation gain*

A hike for mom – and the rest of the family too. An easy afternoon walk up a beautiful hollow and back. Pass through a pair of tunnels. Enjoy the spring wildflowers in bloom. We'll leave Colonial Heights at 1:00 Ppm or Johnson City at 1:20 pm to arrive at the trailhead in Hampton by 2 pm. Doe River Gorge has their own permission form which must be completed by the group and put into a drop box at the parking lot. Expected return is roughly 6 pm.

### **Bluestone River Trip, May 16-18, 2014, 35th Year**

*Leader: Terry Dougherty, 423-502-5177*

The annual Bluestone River Trip (35th Anniversary) is scheduled for May 16-18, 2014. 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 FREE (ask for Pipestem State Park / Mountain Creek Lodge) and reserve your room for Friday and Saturday. To secure one of the clubs block rooms, reservations must be made by April 16. We plan to paddle the scenic Bluestone River both days. This is a Class III 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 and libation coordination on Saturday night and is going to take this one special. Please contact the trip leader (Terry Dougherty, 423-502-5177) if you are planning to attend the trip.

### **F/B: Kiner Hollow Waterfalls in Laurel Run Park, Sunday, May 18, 2 pm – 4 pm**

*Leader: Garry Luttrell, 423-239-9854 or 956-1822*

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

### **Hardcore 2014, May 18-19**

*Contact: [Carl Fritz](mailto:Carl.Fritz@tehcc.org), 423-477-4669*

Hardcore involves hundred hikers and club members in intense trail improvement effort. This year will split the group to work on both Little Rock Knob (going it at Hughes Gap) and at Ash Gap (coming down from Cloudland parking area).

For more information, contact Carl Fritz, [atvolunteer@tehcc.org](mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org)

### **F/B: Bays Mountain Park - Lakeside Trail, Saturday, May 24, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

*Leader: Bob Miller (age 95 years)*

*Rating: Easy 2.4-mile hike around the lake some limited ups and downs*

This Saturday afternoon hike is a classic stroll (90 min) around the reservoir on the Lakeside and Holly trails. The loop follows the shoreline crossing the park dam and a floating bridge, ending at the animal habitats. Spring wildflowers should be in full bloom. We will meet in the park at the dam for a 2 pm departure. Bays Mtn Park has a \$4 entrance fee – unless you carpool with someone who is an annual member. Local boy scouts are also selling \$1 coupon sheets which have a free admission to Bays Mtn Park.



## **F/B: Little Stony Creek Falls, Hanging Rock Recreation Area, Sunday, May 25, 1 pm – 6 pm**

*Leader: TBD*

*Rating: Easy 2-4 mile hike down and back along a cascading stream*

Experience two picturesque waterfalls hidden in a forested gorge. The narrow trail follows the cascading stream with bridges provided for all crossings. Wildflowers should be in bloom; thus frequent stops expected to enjoy the beauty. Leave 1 pm for a 75-minute drive – latter part along very winding VA72 onto gravel forest service roads to reach the upper parking lot. Bring a towel to dry your feet, if you plan on briefly wading at the upper falls.



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## **For the Record**

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### **Wilderness First Aid/CPR, March 21-23, 2014**

*Carl Fritz reporting*

Thanks go to the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts and Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club for sponsoring the two day Wilderness First Aid class and one evening CPR class over the March 21-23 weekend at Eastman Lodge. Scott Fisher coordinated the training with Landmark Learning. Both courses are valuable to everyone whether you get into the wilds or not. The life of a family member may depend upon your knowledge and action. Several of the students have previously had opportunities to save choking victims so the CPR techniques have been used fairly frequently. The first aid training teaches how to diagnose a victim's condition, stabilize them and determine whether they need evacuation. About twenty people took each class and came mostly from within 100 miles.



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## **A.T. Maintenance Reports**

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**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 2/20/2014

**Purpose:** Prepare Trail signs

**Location:** Kingsport

**People:** Steve Perri

**Summary:** I prepared replacement routed signs for Laurel Fork Gorge and sign packets for Maintainers dinner meeting.

**Reporting:** Anna Hackler

**Date:** 2/22/2014

**Purpose:** General cleanup, check for trash

**Location:** Section 10: Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

**People:** Anna Hackler, Yvette Watson

**Summary:** Surprisingly lots of people were out and no trash! The new trail sign looked great. Thank you Carl. One small tree was down that we pushed to the side, also some limbs; but nothing major.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 2/25/2014

**Purpose:** Orientation Meeting with USFS

**Location:** Mars Hill

**People:** Matt McCombs, Keith Kelley, Morgan Sommerville, Steve Perri

**Summary:** Morgan and I met with the new district rangers to discuss the history and functions of the ATC partnership. We provided more information on how projects are selected, submitted, and approved. We spent some time discussing the optimal location review, sources of funds, and trail threats.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 2/25/2014

**Purpose:** A.T. Committee Meeting

**Location:** Kingsport

**People:** Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler, Tim Stewart, Steve Wilson, Kim Peters, Ed Oliver, Steve Perri

**Summary:** TEHCC A.T. Committee met to cover several items for short and long-term decisions. We reviewed our updated project list encompassing projects in 2014 all the way to 2020. In 2014 we have the most projects identified. The objective of the list is to help plan for resources for Konnarock, Hardcore, and other future needs where USFS approvals are needed. We agreed to the proposed plan and will work from this list.

The A.T. RidgeRunner plan for 2014 was reviewed from the document John Odell prepared. We recommend extending the primary coverage to extend to Yellow Mountain Gap rather than Grassy Ridge. We plan to assist with supplies and some shuttles, but not all shuttles. We will work with ATC to better define roles for ATC and TEHCC.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. We are gathering info to determine what events and potential projects might be carried out this year to commemorate the occasion. We have made replacement routed signs for Laurel Fork Gorge intersection with the Hampton Blue Blaze trail. We are working with SAWS to see if there might be events we can coordinate this year including a hike in September in the Pond Mtn and Laurel Fork Wilderness Areas.

Plans for renovating Koonford bridge have begun and another field trip is planned next week to inspect the two larger bridges in Laurel Fork Gorge. Our understanding is the railing is under-rated and the USFS would like to replace and upgrade the design for the hand rails.

We have been discussing potential projects for a group of students from Maine to spend 3-4 days during the week of March 17-20. Several projects exist at higher elevation, but none can be executed at the lower levels due to the high water flowing or colder temperatures. CMC had not replied to our inquiry to see if they may have a project as well. So we will likely cancel the plan for this year.

We discussed a proposal for a public kiosk funded through the TNLP. Several ideas have been brewing about the info to be conveyed on the kiosk and the location. The committee liked the idea to provide educational information in the Erwin area. There are a number of questions around what info will be displayed, where the best location would be, who we might involve in the project, and who the natural owner of the kiosk will be. A primary site under consideration is Chestoa, since many visitor groups use the recreation area. The committee also discussed alternatives including the Erwin Chamber of Commerce, Rock Creek Campground, Fish Hatchery Park, or a location near the linear trail and Fish Hatchery Park. The committee thought the installation would be an ideal Eagle Scout Project. We will discuss further within the partnership to better define some of the options and narrow it down.

We discussed the volunteer recruitment plan underway within Eastman. People have volunteered to contact individuals to determine their current interest level in doing maintenance. We reviewed the USFS Volunteer Agreement and agreed to resubmit the agreement with new signatures for another 2 years.

We discussed a poster communication plan for educating hikers about Noro Virus. A breakout was experienced last year from Hot Springs up to Shady Valley. Several teleconferences were held this year to be proactive in planning to help prepare hikers in the event it occurs in 2014. A poster is available and will be posted on websites as well as trail heads. A list of recommendations and a contact email is available in the event of a reoccurrence.

The committee endorsed funds to augment ATC's coverage for CPR and a Wilderness First Aid course that is being organized by the APES.

TEHCC recently met with the USFS to inspect the impact of grazing cattle on the Osborne property. The cattle permit holders have offered to fence off the cattle from the front of the property so the impact will be along a shorter distance of the accessible trail. The main area that will remain with cattle will be near the vista with the bench.

Kim Peters recommended forming an exploratory committee to recommend additional volunteer awards for longer-term volunteers. Steve Perri, Steve Wilson, Kim Peters and Carl Fritz (resource expert) volunteered to come back to the committee with recommendations.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 2/27/2014

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

**Location:** Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Under power line and middle bridge

**People:** John Beaudet, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Ed Oliver, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We added about seven wooden steps under the power line on blue-blazed trail and reset existing steps. The rest of crew did a great job rehabbing the northern access to the second bridge. That required rolling rocks across bridge to use for cribbing.



**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 2/27/2014

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

**Location:** Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US321, Near first campsite

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Kim Peters

**Summary:** We finished a major rehab/relo at first campsite to get out of the lake high water area and to clarify the path through that area. High temperatures of 35 kept us moving, but the sun was pleasant.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 2/28/2014

**Purpose:** Chainsaw Certification

**Location:** Asheville

**People:** Rick Lott, Scott Vandam

**Summary:** Rick and Scott took sawyer certification training in Asheville on Friday and Saturday, 2/28 and 3/1.

**Reporting:** Bill Berry

**Date:** 3/1/2014

**Purpose:** Clear trail

**Location:** Section 20b, Spivey Gap to Devil Creek Gap

**People:** Bill Berry

**Summary:** I cleared blow downs and checked trail condition.

**Reporting:** Steve Wilson

**Date:** 3/1/2014

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns; clear water bars

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

**People:** Tim McClain, Steve Wilson

**Summary:** We did spring maintenance on Sections 3a and 3b by removing blowdowns and cleaning waterbars. Five blow downs were found and removed with a chainsaw. We cleared the waterbars from McQueens Gap to the spring, since the waterbars in the 3b section were cleared last weekend. The trail is in good shape.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 3/1/2014

**Purpose:** Take log book and shovel to shelter

**Location:** Section 5, TN91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

**People:** Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters

**Summary:** Phyllis and I hiked out to Iron Mountain Shelter to replace a broken shovel and leave a new log book. The parking area was full when we arrived and from the stickers on all the cars, we deduced that there were a bunch of trail runners on the trail. We met about 12 of them, some running 10 miles and others 22 miles, along with many day hikers and a couple of backpackers on this surprisingly nice day. We removed a large fire-ring at the Grindstaff monument and scattered the frozen ashes as best we could. At the shelter, we picked up trash, left the new shovel and log book and then carried out the broken shovel. We only found one blowdown which was fairly easily dragged off the trail.

Sadly, someone again has vandalized the kiosk at the trailhead. There are three new holes in the plexiglass and the map is torn.

**Reporting:** Bill Fuller

**Date:** 3/2/2014

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 14a, Doll Flats to Bradley Gap

**People:** Bill Fuller, Campbell Fuller

**Summary:** We hiked from Doll Flats to the summit of Hump Mountain, clearing blowdowns and removing debris and limbs from the trail. We cleared two small blowdowns, and one very large blowdown just south of Doll Flats. The rest of the trail was in good shape up to the summit of Hump except for some trash at the campsite just north of Houston Ridge. We will return soon to remove it.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 3/4/2014

**Purpose:** Inspect Laurel Fork Bridges

**Location:** Section 10, Laurel Fork Gorge

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** We cut some of Koonford bridge materials. Ed conducted some loading experiments. We physically inspected the two

large lower bridges with Lynn DiFiore and Gray Buckles. We plan to test some new bracing for hand rails, repair some minor problems, and inspect some primary fasteners that may be missing.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 3/5/2014

**Purpose:** Trail Maintenance

**Location:** Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US 321, second campground

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We built 400 feet of blue-blaze trail around spots where Watauga Lake flooded the Appalachian Trail last year.

**Reporting:** Ken Buchanan

**Date:** 3/5/2014

**Purpose:** Clear blowdown and brush

**Location:** Section 11a, Dennis Cove to Hard Core relos

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Pat Loven

**Summary:** We walked in at Dennis Cove and found the reported blowdown after about one mile. We removed that blowdown (having 10 or 12 inch branches), then found another smaller blowdown which we removed. We also lopped laurel and threw brush off the trail. Pat plans to come in from atop White Rocks in the near future so that he covers his entire section.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 3/5/2014

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

**Location:** Section 20a, South of Chestoa bridge for 1 mile

**People:** Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We worked in the initial switchbacks by installing 22 log steps. We rehabbed another 200 feet of trail that had become full of roots. We also cleared brush on the walking path along the road from the bridge and installed a step at the road where it passes the end of the guard rail.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 3/8/2014

**Purpose:** Spring Maintenance

**Location:** Section 18, Beauty Spot to Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Judy Middlemas, Eric Middlemas, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We cleaned out water bars, cut and removed small trees and limbs from the trail, and picked up trash.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 3/8/2014

**Purpose:** Inspect Laurel Fork bridges

**Location:** Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

**People:** Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples,

**Summary:** We inspected the large bridges, removed some deck boards to check bridge hardware, and developed some proposed modifications.

**Reporting:** Bill Berry

**Date:** 3/8/2014

**Purpose:** Clear trail

**Location:** Section 20b, Devil Creek Gap to No Business Shelter

**People:** Bill Berry

**Summary:** I cleared blowdowns and checked the trail for problems. I had a report that the trail in good shape all the way to Temple Hill.

**Reporting:** Bill Fuller

**Date:** 3/8/2014

**Purpose:** Cut limbs; scout trail

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

**People:** Bill Fuller

**Summary:** I hiked from 321 to the spring on Pond Flats. I cut back a lot of overhanging rhododendrons and cleared a couple of smaller step-over blowdowns. Overall, the north side of Pond Mtn is in really good shape, except the northbound blazes down the last mile of the mountain need touching up. The rest of blazes (north and southbound) are good. I will paint those last few blazes very soon. I passed two thru-hikers, so we already have a few coming through our area.

**Reporting:** David Dunham

**Date:** 3/8/2014

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

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

**People:** Carol Dunham, David Dunham

**Summary:** We installed an A.T. sign at Shook Branch and installed a new sign at the shelter. We cleaned the shelter, picked up trash, painted blazes, and rehabbed a short section of trail at Shook Branch.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 3/11/2014

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

**Location:** Section 19a, About mile south of Gap Indian Grave Gap

**People:** John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Mike Laude, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We spent the day rehabbing very rooty and rocky areas. It was about as tough as rehab work gets, but we knocked out 450 feet. The worst, we cribbed with rocks and filled with rocks and any dirt we could find. It is great to get higher in the mountains again after a long winter.

**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 3/14/2014

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

**People:** Lynn DiFiore

Debbie Akins

**Summary:** I placed the new register, shovel and brooms at the shelter, and cut the recently reported blowdown on the blue blaze. I dismantled a newly created fire ring and removed alot of trash from the barn and the campsite at the Overmountain trail intersection. Many section hikers were out on spring break.

**Reporting:** Terry Oldfield

**Date:** 3/14/2014

**Purpose:** Maintain Double Springs Shelter

**Location:** Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter to TN91

**People:** Kim Peters, Terry Oldfield

**Summary:** On this beautiful sunny day, we hiked to the shelter from TN 91, trimming a few greenbriers on the way. At the shelter, we left a new log book, swept, cleared snow from the picnic table and picked up trash. The trash included a large plastic sheet that had been nailed up on the front of the shelter as a windbreak. Kim removed the log and rocks that were holding down the bottom of the plastic sheet. One large tree trunk has been hauled down the trail toward the shelter causing a gully and water erosion in the middle of the trail. Subsequently, the area in front of the shelter is wet and muddy. This needs to be corrected by creating a new water diversion up-trail. On the way back to TN 91, we cleared waterbars. Trail is clear except for a 12 to 14 inch blowdown about 1/2 mile from the shelter.



*Erroded trail leading to the shelter*



*Terry cleans out a water diversion near the blowdown ½ mile south of shelter*

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 3/14/2014

**Purpose:** Chainsaw Training

**Location:** Asheville, NC and Pisgah National Forest

**People:** Jim Chambers

**Summary:** I became certified with the chainsaw this weekend. I had classroom training in Asheville, NC yesterday, and field training today in Pisgah National Forest.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 3/15/2014

**Purpose:** Lop and clear blowdowns

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

**People:** Ken Murray, Lotta Murray, Libby Cradic, Andrew Cradic, Tim Stewart, John Robbins, Mary Fanslow, Kim Peters

**Summary:** The first 3rd Saturday - Hiking with Tools trip of 2014 was a great success! We had enough volunteers to split into two groups. One group hiked out to Moreland Gap shelter and worked their way back towards Bitter End, while the other group started from Bitter End and worked their way out to meet the first group coming back. We clipped rhodys and other growth from the trail, as well as cleared several blowdowns. The section from Bitter End to the shelter is now in great shape. We met one NOBO thru-hiker and several section hikers who expressed their appreciation for our hard work. Much thanks to all the volunteers!

**Reporting:** Eric Middlemas

**Date:** 3/15/2014

**Purpose:** Annual spring maintenance

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to Cherry Gap Shelter

**People:** Eric Middlemas

**Summary:** I cleared waterbars and three small blowdowns between Iron Mtn Gap and Cherry Gap Shelter.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 3/20/2014

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

**Location:** Section 19a: Indian Grave Gap - Curley Maple Gap Shelter About 2 to 4 miles south of Indian Grave Gap

**People:** John Beaudet, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Fritz Swanson

**Summary:** We finished the major rehabs down to Curley Maple Gap Shelter by redigging the severely rooty and rocky sections. Also, dug a major ditch at shelter to prevent water from going into shelter.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 3/21/2014

**Purpose:** CPR Training

**Location:** Section Other (Meetings/preparation/etc.) Eastman Lodge

**People:** John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We took CPR training.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 3/22/2014

**Purpose:** Wilderness First Aid Training

**Location:** Section Other (Meetings/preparation/etc.) Eastman Lodge

**People:** John Beaudet, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz

**Summary:** On March 22 and 23 we took Wilderness First Aid training.

**Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club  
Spring Dinner Meeting  
Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Reservation Form**

Fill out the form below and send it with a check payable to **Tim McClain**.

Within Eastman send to:  
Tim McClain, Building 448

Outside Eastman send to:  
Tim McClain  
448 Chesterfield Drive  
Kingsport, TN 37663

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

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Check and reservation form must be received by **Monday 4/21/2014**.

Names of all attending (*please print*)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Meals:

Adults:	_____	x \$12 =	\$ _____
Children:	_____	x \$ 6 =	\$ _____
Totals:	_____		\$ _____

Number attending without meal reservation:

\_\_\_\_\_