



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

June 2014

tehcc.org

In this Issue

[From the Chair](#)

[Changing of the Guard](#)

[Wilderness First Aid Offering](#)

[Achievements of Watauga Global Community](#)

[A.T. Maintainers Needed](#)

[TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)

[Event Schedule – Next Two Months](#)

[Details of Upcoming Events](#)

[For the Record](#)

[A.T. Maintenance Reports](#)

From the Chair

Brien Lewis, Steering Committee Chair

Paddling, boating, floating; whatever you call it and wherever you do it, there are basic safety rules that all boaters should follow. Even the most experienced adventurers can be caught off guard. Understanding your environment and obtaining basic skills can be lifesaving. TEHCC and APEs are providing two unique courses this month to help educate paddlers, novice to veteran, on basic and rescue skills. [Read below](#) in the newsletter and check the website for more details. If you participate in these sports and cannot make these classes, I would encourage you to take some time to search through online resources for safety tips and reminders. Having fun is important, but coming home safely to your family takes priority.

Changing of the Guard

Submitted by Vic Hasler

Since the March 2005 issue of this newsletter, **Kim Peters** and **Terry Oldfield** have served as co-editors – assembling a very nice monthly layout from the various submissions, which sometimes pushed the deadline. Over this time period, the “ATC” changed its name, the club redesigned its website, trail sections have been relocated, maintained, and hiked, streams paddled, plus dinner fellowships enjoyed together ...and some of you look a bit older in the pictures.

After this long term of service, Kim has decided to step down as a newsletter co-editor. Thankfully, Terry has agreed to continue – with **Sharon Burnette** now joining her in this role. We are pleased to have two co-editors, as it provides a flexible arrangement with back-up in case either is out-of-pocket when the newsletter is being put together. The news@tehcc.org account has been reconfigured to deliver to Sharon and Terry; thus please send them your stories about club activities and other relevant articles at least a week prior to the end of a month.

Wilderness First Aid Offering

Carl Fritz reporting

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is considering offering a free Wilderness First Aid Class in the local region to accommodate TEHCC members and Carolina Mountain Club members. Trail maintainers would get first choice, but hike leaders and maybe even paddlers would be considered. The paddlers and TEHCC coordinated a Wilderness First Aid Course in Kingsport in March and it was well attended. I was able to attend that class and found it very useful if you run into a medical emergency in the field. The class is two full days on a weekend. The location and time have not been selected. To make the class happen, there needs to be sufficient interest. If you have interest, please contact Carl Fritz at 423-477-4669 or atvolunteer@tehcc.org.

Achievements of Watauga Global Community

Carl Fritz reporting

Watauga Global Community is a unit within Appalachian State University's College of Arts and Sciences. Their director, David Huntley, is retiring this year. In 2000, David started partnering with TEHCC to offer incoming freshmen a trail maintenance event as an orientation opportunity, so the students could get to know each other and work together. We recently recognized David with a club T-shirt and a plaque, which provided the opportunity to review the impact of this program.

Transporting anywhere from 52 to 152 students and faculty requires one or two buses plus some vans. Also, they always bring sack lunches for the middle of day. They have worked on major relocations or rehabs in many locations from Damascus to south of Iron Mountain Gap. Our club members have come out in large numbers to work alongside these young adults. Projects have been done that we could not have done by ourselves.

In thirteen outings, these students have provided over 11,000 volunteer hours, building 2.2 miles of new trail and rehabbing 0.5 mile of trail. The rehabbing all took place in the Roan Mountains between north of Ash Gap to Engine Gap. For three years they helped us move gravel to the trail in places we could not get gravel except by bucket. They bucket brigaded over 88,000 pounds or 44 tons with probably 3000 bucket loads! Keep in mind this is dry weight. One trip in particular was wet and so was the gravel.

Probably the most significant impact is that over 1200 students and staff have been exposed to trail maintenance. Perhaps some will do trail maintenance in the future. Many of the freshmen after working one year, volunteer to come out the next year as a sophomore.

Year	Students & Faculty	Club	People	Student & Faculty Hrs	Club Hrs	Total Hr	Total Ft New	Total Ft Rehab	Task
							2.2 miles	0.5 miles	
Sum	1,253	201	1,454	11,413	2,080	13,493	11,500	2,400	gravel moved by bucket over 88,000 lbs or 44 tons
2000	88	18	106	968	232	1200	1000		Sodded old trail up Round Bald. Built new steps at Carver's Gap. Dug relo south of Carver's Gap and installed bridges.
2001	109	15	124	1184	180	1364	1100		Relocation north of Bitter End
2003	152	15	167	1520	150	1670		1000	Installed log and rock steps. bucket brigaded 28,000 pounds of gravel up to a quarter mile
2004	108	13	121	972	113	1085		600	Bucket brigaded 36,320 lbs of gravel, installed 64 side lgs and 25 steps.
2005	71	7	78	566	49	615	1400		On a very cold morning in November dug new trail on both sides of Iron Mountain Gap.
2006	124	14	138	1116	130	1246	1700		One mile south of Iron Mt Gap, we dug new trail to eliminate a steep and eroding trail section.
2007	99	17	116	792	170	962	1200		Dug relocation north of 19E
2008	52	12	64	418	141	559	1100		Dug relocation south of Damascus
2009	79	20	99	711	200	911	1000		Dug relocation at Watauga Lake
2010	90	18	108	810	180	990	1000		Dug relocation south of Hughes Gap
2011	82	18	100	574	182	756		800	Bucketed 24,000 pounds of gravel from Round Bald down as far as Engine Gap
2012	103	17	120	927	167	1094	1000		Dug relocation on Backbone Rock Trail
2013	96	17	113	855	186	1041	1000		Dug relocation on Backbone Rock Trail

A.T. Maintainers Needed

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.

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; or Kim Peters at 423-366-0128, atmaint@tehcc.org.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Gabriela Brueggeman	Edison Watson	Koustubh Kulkami	Erik Pendleton
Madison Barefoot	John Beaudet	Charles Berry	Leticia Brock
Barbara & Gary Elliott	Matthew Kern	Sunil Kulkami	Stephanie Sager
Kevin Salyer	Daniel Smith	Jason Thorne	John Vincent

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
June 1	Rock Creek Falls (Erwin)	Brien Lewis	615-828-8206
June 8	Lake Keokee Loop Trail	Terry Dougherty	423-502-5177
June 14-15	Beginnner Kayak Course	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
June 15	Pinnacle Nature Preserve	TBD	
June 17	11:30 – Steering Team Meeting	Brien Lewis	615-828-8206
June 21	3 rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
June 27-29	Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
June 29	F/B: Grassy Ridge	Mike Watts	423-963-1593
July 5-9	Konnarock Project, near Clyde Smith Shelter	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
July 17	F/B: FunFest Moonlight Hike	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
July 20	F/B: Cloudland Trail	Mary Fanslow	423-707-5004
July 24-28	Konnarock Project, near Clyde Smith Shelter	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669

Standard Hike Information

Hikes leaving from “Colonial Heights” meet at the parking lot below McDonalds, 4317 Fort Henry Drive, which is NW of I-81 Exit 59. “Johnson City” meeting location is behind Parkway Discount Wine & Liquor just off I-81 Exit 24 at the intersection of University Parkway and South Roan Street, which is reached 20 minutes later. All hikes will leave promptly to stay close to schedule. Carpooling is encouraged with passengers providing a few dollars each towards gas.

Bring water, snack, layered clothing appropriate for the weather, comfortable footwear, bug spray, camera, and trekking poles as desired. The family dog can come if friendly and kept on leash. Walking speed is typically 2 mph including rest breaks. For more information, check the trail wiki (click on hike title if underlined for link) or call the hike leader. It is appropriate to contact the hike leader to let them know that you are interested in coming and provide a cell phone number in case plans change by either party.

An activity release form is signed by everyone going on the hike – and it helps capture the names and spelling for the trip report. Good digital photos from the hike are also appreciated for the newsletter and trail wiki.

Details of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

Tuesday Evenings: Johnson City Roll Practice - Freedom Hall Pool Closed for Maintenance, May 31 – July 1

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 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.

Click [here](#) for more information. **Note that the next roll practice will be July 8 due to pool shut down.**

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 [APEs yahoo group site](#) or contact [me with this link](#).

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), 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/>

Thursday Evenings During the Summer: Paddle to the Grill

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

As we may be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat & PFD's are mandatory.

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

Bi-Weekly on Saturdays, Lower Watauga, Class I and II, Starting June 7, 2014

We will launch from Riverside Park in Elizabethton behind the Ballpark at 3 pm 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!

Contact: [Kim Peters](#), 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: [Rock Creek Falls \(Erwin\)](#) – Sunday, June 1, 2014

Leader: [Brien Lewis](#), 615-828-8206, chair@tehcc.org

Rating: Medium 3-mile hike up and back along a cascading stream to a pair of waterfalls

Forest Service Trail #148 follows the Rock Creek as it winds up the hollow. Being June, white rhododendron blooms should fill some areas. We will leave at 1 pm for the 45-minute drive. There is a \$2 cash per car day-use fee at USFS Rock Creek Recreation Area. There are four creek crossings which can be "rock hopped" on stepping stones. Otherwise, bring water shoes and a towel to dry your feet, if you plan on just wading across.

For the 50th Anniversary of Wilderness Act, the Cherokee National Forest is [featuring](#) this specific hike in the Unaka Mountain Wilderness area. Group size is limited to 14.

F/B: [Lake Keokee Loop Trail](#) – Sunday, June 8, 2014

Leader: Terry Dougherty, 423-502-5177

Rating: Easy <4 mile walk around a lake with little elevation change

Lake Keokee is a 92-acre secluded lake surrounded by marsh grasses and hardwood forests. The trail winds along the shoreline with plenty of opportunities for bird watching and wildflowers. The boat launch has picnic shelters – and bathrooms. Dogs are allowed on leash.

The group meeting place for this hike will be [Gate City](#) – at the Food Lion/Subway up on the hill above US23 at the Kane Street traffic light. Leave at 1 pm for the 75-minute (46-mile) drive to west of Appalachia, VA.

Beginner Whitewater Kayak Course - June 14-15, 2014



If you've ever thought how much fun it would be to learn how to kayak, now's your chance!! The Beginner Whitewater Kayak Course, sponsored by the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club, will be held June 14-15 in the Tri-Cities area. The clinic is designed for anyone wanting to learn the fundamentals of whitewater kayaking—fundamentals that will ensure a fun and safe time on the river. No previous experience is necessary. Instruction will consist of one day on flat water at Warrior's Path State Park, and then one day on the Lower Nolichucky River. As in the past, there will continue to be a strong emphasis on safety. Participants will be responsible for providing their own gear and transportation, although loaner gear is available on a first come basis.

Registration now open - [link](#). Deadline is June 7th. TEHCC members can deduct \$10 from the cost, bringing it to \$65. For more information, contact Scott Fisher (276) 698-4644 or e-mail tfisher1@its.jnj.com.

F/B: Pinnacle Nature Preserve - Sunday, June 15, 2014

Leader: TBD

Rating: Easy <4 mile round trip

We'll start by crossing a swinging bridge over Big Cedar Creek, then take the level path for one mile to the tumbling "Big Falls" and continue onto the 0.5 mile Clinch River Trail. We'll return by the same route, unless the group wants to hike up to the river overlook. Wildflowers should be plentiful. The preserve has a picnic shelter – and bathrooms for a break. We'll leave at 1 pm for the 80-minute drive to Lebanon, VA. If warm, bring a towel and water shoes to wade in the creek below the falls.

Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course, June 27-29, 2014

Contact: Scott Fisher, 276-698-4644, tfisher1@its.jnj.com

The Basic SWR Course, sponsored by Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and TEHCC, is one in a series of swiftwater rescue courses offered through the American Canoe Association. The course is led by ACA certified swiftwater rescue and kayak instructor Scott Fisher and is designed to teach the recreational paddler basic swiftwater rescue techniques where limited personnel and/or safety gear is available. Scott has provided instruction to hundreds of individuals, paddling clubs, firefighters, rescue personnel, staff of church youth camps, and local outfitter guides. The clinic will include classroom instruction, river skills and realistic scenarios. Successful completion of this course will prepare you to self-rescue and aid in the rescue of others in whitewater environments.

Course Overview: The Swiftwater Rescue Course teaches recognition and avoidance of common river hazards, execution of self-rescue techniques, and rescue techniques for paddlers in distress. Emphasis is placed both on personal safety and on simple, commonly used skills. Techniques for dealing with hazards that carry greater risks for both victim and rescuer, such as strainers, rescue vest applications, entrapments, and pins, also are practiced. Scenarios will provide an opportunity for participants to practice their skills both individually and within a team/group context.

The group will be camping both nights at Riverpark Campground (3937 Highway 81 South, Jonesborough, TN) at a cost of \$10/person/night - paid to the campground. The training will occur there and on the Lower Nolichucky River.

Registration now open - [link](#). Deadline is June 20th. Cost for TEHCC members is \$85. **The TEHCC Steering Committee has approved a \$40 refund for club members upon successful completion of this course.** For more information, contact Scott Fisher (276) 698-4644 or e-mail tfisher1@its.jnj.com.

F/B: [Grassy Ridge](#) – Sunday, June 29, 2014

Leader: Mike Watts, 423-963-1593

Rating: 5-mile hike on mostly gravel path with gradual 650' elevation change

A club favorite is to see the rhododendrons and flame azalea in full bloom of many colors. This date is timed to be the week after the festival to avoid peak traffic; however, many other visitors are expected. Leave at 1 pm for the 90-minute drive to Carver's Gap.

F/B: FunFest Moonlight Hike, July 17, 2014; TEHCC Volunteers Needed

Contact: Vic Hasler, 423-239-0388, events@tehcc.org

Rating: Easy 2.5 mile hike around the lake on Lakeside and Holly Trails.

Since before 1993, TEHCC has been co-sponsoring the Kingsport FunFest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park. Over the years, this popular event has attracted larger and larger crowds. Parking space is limited at the Nature Center; therefore, in order to control the number of vehicles, this year's Moonlight Hike will be a ticketed event limited to 300 participants. However, TEHCC volunteers helping with the event will not be required to have an entrance ticket. To minimize the number of cars, if you have fewer than four people, then let's gather at the Eastman Lodge parking lot at 6:30 pm to carpool. Otherwise, be at the back side of the Nature Center facing the lake by 7 pm. The hike itself kicks off at 8 pm from the dam near the Nature Center. Bring your own flashlight/headlamp (and spare batteries), water, insect repellent, and charged cell phone. We'll start at the front of the walkers, and then be assigned to specific intersections to direct the traffic along the right path. Overall, TEHCC needs to cover roughly a dozen places with one or two people each. The event ends with a headcount back at the Nature Center by 10 pm. If you are interested in assisting with this event or have any questions, please contact Vic Hasler.

F/B: Cloudland Trail - Sunday, July 20, 2014

Leader: Mary Fanslow, 423-707-5004

Rating: Easy 2.4 mile round trip hike with little elevation change

This hike is an easy stroll around the former Cloudland Hotel area. Starting at the parking lot, the short 1.2-mile trail travels over to the Roan High Bluff overlook for an expansive view. Upon returning to the trailhead, the group can decide whether to head 0.6 mile 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. Departure time is 1 pm for the 90 minute drive to Carver's Gap. Expected return is between 5:30-7 pm depending on whether the A.T. shelter is visited.

For the Record

Spring Wildflower Hike, Gentry Falls, May 3, 2014

Joe DeLoach reporting

We've been having spring wildflower hikes almost every year since 1992, and this was probably the most eventful of the series. Joe scouted the hike on April 24 and was pleased to find stepping stones at all the creek crossings, resulting in a dry hike which had been advertised in our April newsletter as "you will get your feet wet." A modified, more positive writeup for the May newsletter resulted in a total of ten hikers, with a few



Photos by Chris Fain

more interested but unable to go. A rainy week swelled the creek such that we found many of the stepping stones were under water. We considered aborting in favor of another trail, but eager participants, memories of discontent the last time we selected Gentry Falls and went elsewhere due to high water, knowledge that the flowers were beautiful, and misguided hope that higher crossings would be more easily navigable, kept us going. Our group was truly diverse, with ages ranging from 7 to 95 and natives of Malaysia and China participating. The high flow made the waterfalls spectacular. The water was not the only thing that fell though, and Joe breathed a sigh of relief after everyone made it out OK. The flowers certainly cooperated with 25 species in the just over 2 miles to the falls, one of our best counts ever. Highlights were a painted trillium with four petals and four leaves, and another with three petals and five leaves. Like four-leaf clovers, four-leaf trilliums are supposed to be a sign of good luck, which seemed to be the case. Participants who (hopefully) enjoyed the hike were Jinghua Yuan, Chris Fain and his daughters Anna and Emily Fain, Cindy Liew and her children Annice and Nicholas Chew, Bob Miller, Allen Duffield, and Joe DeLoach.



F/B: Doe River Gorge, Sunday, May 11, 2014

Vic Hasler reporting

A trio enjoyed a walk along the gravel railroad grade up as the Doe River cascaded further below in the gorge. The day and pace were very comfortable to appreciate the views and wildflowers. The camp itself was briefly explored with preparations for the summer camp season well along. Afterwards, ice cream was enjoyed on the drive home. Out today were Nancy and Steve Ankabrandt with Vic Hasler.

Photo by Steve Ankabrandt



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Faye Guinn

Date: 4/13/2014

Purpose: Paint blazes

Location: Section 16b, Greasy Creek to 2 miles south

People: Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn

Summary: The blazes were getting really faded and some were now on dead trees and needed to be moved. We painted south to the big rock and then painted the north blazes on the way back. We enjoyed talking to several thru hikers as well as several section hikers. The mountain was white with all the spring beauties, hepatic, bloodroot and anemone flowers in full bloom. On our return we were asked by a hiker how far to water. We sent him to Greasy Creek and said to make a left to water; but then we discovered the water sign on our side is missing. We have reported it. We do need to get a new sign in there, because as this hiker reminded us, blue blazes do not always lead to water.

Reporting: Dale Douthat

Date: 4/19/2014

Purpose: Regular Maintenance

Location: Section 19b, Curley Maple Gap Shelter to Nolichucky River

People: Dale Douthat

Summary: I cut weeds and grass with a string trimmer and sling blade, and picked up trash and repaired the trail. The trail is now in good shape from the bridge to the shelter.

Reporting: John Beaudet

Date: 4/20/2014

Purpose: Repair drainage problem

Location: Section 19a, Curley Maple Gap Shelter

People: John Beaudet, Frances Figart

Summary: We installed a culvert in the drainage ditch at the shelter.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/24/2014

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 14c, Carver's Gap to a little north of Grassy Ridge

People: Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Becky Kinder, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Mike Price, Gayle Riddervold, Kevin Sedgewick, Fritz Swanson, George Thorpe; HIKERS: Jacob Bison, Kristen Davis, Alice Feinald, Yena Jang, Keum Suk Kim

Summary: On a beautiful day we saw probably 60 hikers. Many were thru or section hikers. We worked on all the water diversions from Carver's Gap to Engine Gap and moved gravel slightly where necessary. The gravel trail is still in good shape. We removed about four hundred feet of the upper fence line. We did major trail rehab just north of Grassy Ridge to deal with the areas with wet-weather springs. We installed very large stepping stones.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 4/24/2014

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Stan Murray

People: Lynn DiFiore

Summary: I worked the section from the barn to Stan Murray. I cleaned and re-established waterbars, cut one large blowdown across the trail, and removed several bags of trash from Stan Murray and the barn. Many thru hikers were out; I estimate 20 hikers were staying at the barn and 2 hikers at Stan Murray. Hikers at Stan Murray were very appreciative of all the work and even said they felt the section maintained by TEHCC was the best they had seen on the whole trail!

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 4/26/2014

Purpose: Clean water bars and check on the shelter

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

People: Jill Wilson, Steve Wilson

Summary: We hiked from McQueen's Gap to Abingdon Gap Shelter to clean water bars and check on the shelter. The previous day's rains showed the trail's drainage status. We cleaned all the water bars and some natural drainage sites. The shelter was in good shape with no apparent leaks, but the diamond shaped water-source sign needs to be replaced. The broom and shovel were in good shape. We saw four thru-hikers, two day hikers, and a trail runner.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/26/2014

Purpose: Dig trail relocation

Location: Section 15b, North of Ash Gap

People: Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, John Robbins, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart; ASU TRAIL CREW: James Lautzenheiser, Kate Miller, Kelly Perkins, Jeremiah Bolick, Andrew McKinney, Robert Alvis; HIKERS: Mike Price, Jacob Bison, Sean Weiss, Forrest Wright, Ben Printer, Ben Darrow, Victor Li, Alice Feinald, Ethan Dodgen, Nicholas Parisi, Kevin Kiernan, "The Pope," "Nora V"

Summary: With the enthusiastic ASU Trail Crew members plus eleven hikers from Kincora and two hikers from the field, we tackled another relocation close to Ash Gap. It was a tough relo with much rock work for steps and cribbing. We essentially finished it, but did not open it.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 4/26/2014

Purpose: Check trail and shelter

Location: Section 5, TN91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Phyllis Cairnes, Rolla Wade, Kim Peters

Summary: We checked the trail, shelter and water sources, and picked up trash at the shelter and at the five fire rings we found and scattered. The shelter needs a broom and the blazes at the water source need to be painted and perhaps a sign installed, as many hikers are missing it on the way to the shelter. We met many thru-hikers. The orange box is back and attracting many hikers and trash.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 4/28/2014

Purpose: Clean up trash at trailhead

Location: Section 13, US19 E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: The purpose of this trip was to clean up the bags of trash we saw sitting by the trailhead. Someone had left one large bag of camping supplies and two small bags of crushed beer cans. We bagged up the trash, picked up cigarette butts in the parking lot and took down a wooden sign from a convenience store in Elk Park that was sticking in the ground near the first bridge.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 4/29/2014

Purpose: Clearing blowdowns

Location: Section 9a, South of Shook Branch Road

People: Jim Chambers, Amy Herching

Summary: I grabbed a thru hiker at Kincora and we sawed up the two blowdowns just south of Shook Branch Road.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 5/1/2014

Purpose: Honor David Huntley

Location: Boone, NC

People: Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples

Summary: David Huntley, Director of Watauga Global Community at Appalachian State University is retiring. We honored him with a Club tee shirt and a plaque for bringing over 1200 students out to help with major projects on the Appalachian Trail over thirteen years. See article in newsletter [above](#).

Reporting: Pat Loven

Date: 5/1/2014

Purpose: Trail maintenance

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Road to Canute Place

People: Ken Buchanan, Pat Loven

Summary: We parked at the Dennis Cove parking area and walked south to address a reported blowdown. We found a recently cut and removed tree at the approximate location we were given. We did some minor branch lopping instead. The section of trail from Dennis Cove south to infamous chiseled rock (Summer 2013 trail work) is in very good shape.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 5/1/2014

Purpose: Install sign and do routine maintenance

Location: Section 9b, Pond Flats

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I installed the new signs made by Steve Perri at the blue-blaze A.T. intersection. I removed two blowdowns near Pond Flats and lopped rhodos and greenbriar.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 5/2/2014

Purpose: Sharpen digging tools

Location: Carl's house

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, George Thorpe

Summary: We sharpened and repaired rakes, mattocks and pulaskis in preparation for Hard Core.

Reporting: Gerald Scott

Date: 5/3/2014

Purpose: Spring Maintenance

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

People: Gerald Scott, Harold Wexler

Summary: We removed limbs from the trail, lopped overhanging branches, cleaned out water bars, dug out steps, cleared and dug out waterways, removed four blow downs (largest was 8 inches), and maintained shelter and tent camping area.

Reporting: Ed Oliver

Date: 5/3/2014

Purpose: Dig trail relocation

Location: Section 5, Just south of TN 91

People: Paul Benfield, Dave Clark, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver

Summary: The crew continued digging a relocation started last fall. Probably one more day will complete this relocation.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 5/3/2014

Purpose: Rehab A.T.

Location: Section 14c, Jane Bald to Stan Murray Shelter

People: Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Robin Dean f, Carl Fritz, Barry Griggs, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Mike Price, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart; HIKERS: two unknown, Ryan Legits, Jay Van Dam, Ethan Zukas, Zachery Zukas

Summary: We saw well over a hundred hikers. The spring beauties looked like snow and trout lilies were abundant. We removed a number of occasional roots that had become problems. We added many rock steps going up Jane Bald, improved a wet area on Jane Bald, added a number of steps as A.T. cruises by Grassy Ridge, and added rock steps in switchbacks and in a wet area halfway down to the shelter. Generally, the trail is in good shape to Stan Murray Shelter. We also finished painting blazes on this section.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 5/3/2014

Purpose: Check conditions on Doll Flats

Location: Section 13, Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We went up to check the conditions at Doll Flats and I am happy to report there was hardly any trash up there. We checked the trail to the spring and proceeded to hike a mile down where we cut back thorny weeds and a few rhododendron bushes. Becky cleaned off all the rock steps and pushed a small tree off the trail. We ran into numerous hikers who commented how nice Doll Flats looked. One young man stopped to personally shake Becky's hand in a show of appreciation for all the work we do. It's stellar moments like this that make the job of trail maintenance so rewarding.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 5/3/2014

Purpose: Inspect Trail for Konnarock Project

Location: Section 16a, Little Rock Knob Relo

People: Steve Perri

Summary: I attended the Konnarock pre-planning field inspection with crew leaders Robert Berry and Sarah Ford, along with two others (Jerry and Davis) from the Konnarock base camp crew. Fortunately, we had a fairly dry week considering all the rain that hit elsewhere in the southeast and so we were able to drive up on the USFS road from Roaring Creek Road. The lower USFS gate was open and so it was only about a one mile walk to the A.T. from where we parked. Tons of trillium and ramps covered the upper part of our access route, which we reflagged to highlight the route. We inspected the work done last year which started trail south of Clyde Smith Shelter and traversed between the shelter and the A.T. Bobby thinks they will be able to finish this segment during the first week or nearly finish since there will be some clean up needed from last year's work on the steep side hill. This was Sarah's first visit to this area while Bobby was part of the crew last year. The tie-ins on the ends should go quickly since these might be raked in. We inspected their overnight camping location which was farther up the USFS road. Overall this year's work should be straight forward to finish the segment started last year. Work on the next segment is likely to start during the second week.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 5/3/2014

Purpose: Mow Accessible Trail and A.T.

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the grass along the Appalachian Trail and the Accessible Trail across the Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 5/4/2014

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Lynn DiFiore

Summary: I replaced a broken toilet seat on the privy at the barn and removed a large amount of trash from the shelter and campsites. Many thru hikers and day hikers were out enjoying the beautiful day!

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 5/5/2014

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 8, Shook Branch to Watauga Dam

People: Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Jim Chambers, "Lumpy"

Summary: We cleared five blowdowns; one was a 24" red oak and the rest were smaller locusts. We also cut and loaded eight 4-foot and two 5-foot steps for use with Hard Core.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 5/5/2014

Purpose: Finish repairing the first bridge in Laurel Fork Gorge

Location: Section 10, About 1/2 mile from Hampton blue-blaze trail

People: Ed Oliver, Darrell Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Roman Wall, Jim Foster

Summary: We replaced four of the long bridge timbers, which ended the repair project for now. We met Roman who was camping at the bridge and he was happy to help out. We were glad that he did, although he lost his wallet in the river while helping. The guys pitched in to help out and I shuttled him to the hospital (had to do some blood work and get a shot) and then after dinner and a couple of other stops we were back to the trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: 5/8/2014
Purpose: Dig relocation
Location: Section 16a, Little Rock Knob
People: Jim Chambers, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Mike Price
Summary: They did some digging in preparation for Hard Core at Little Rock Knob.

Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: 5/8/2014
Purpose: Dig relocations
Location: Section 15b, Cloudland Hotel to Hughes Gap
People: Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Ted Mowery, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart
Summary: We did some digging, cutting briars, but mostly inspecting and reflagging of relocations north of Ash Gap. There are just eight relocations left and four have some work done already. With good weather, Hard Core should make a significant impact on the remaining work. After lunch, Kim and Ken walked to Hughes Gap from Ash Gap and cut seven blowdowns.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore
Date: 5/9/2014
Purpose: Routine maintenance
Location: Section 14b. Overmountain shelter to Big Hump
People: Lynn DiFiore, Lyndsey Smith
Summary: We picked up a large amount of trash at the barn, including a couple of bags that were hung in a tree. We dispersed a new fire ring that was built behind the barn. There is a lot of human waste behind the barn, so we put a note in the register that the privy is farther down the trail. We may need to put up a sign. We spent the rest of the day brushing and cutting briars towards the Humps. High winds and incoming thunderstorms cut our day short, but we were able to shuttle some thru hikers to town for supplies.

Reporting: Bob Peoples
Date: 5/11/2014
Purpose: Prepare Relo
Location: Section 16a, Little Rock Knob
People: Jim Chambers, Bob Peoples, Mike Price, "Snake Bite"
Summary: We cut locusts for side logs and steps, and installed several steps. Relocation may be completed during Hard Core.

Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: 5/13/2014
Purpose: Prepare relocation
Location: Section 16a, Little Rock Knob
People: Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz
Summary: We cut a 16-inch dead oak leaner that was a hazard on the Little Rock Knob relocation. We also packed in some wooden stakes and rolled the relocation distance.

Reporting: Steve Perri
Date: 5/20/2014
Purpose: Report administrative time
Location: Kingsport, TN
People: Steve Perri
Summary: I reviewed the ATC Strategic Plan and APPO plans and teleconferenced with APPO. I also prepared a wooden sign for Yellow Mountain Barn.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach
Date: 5/21/2014
Purpose: Roan Ridgerunner Orientation and Grassy Ridge Trail maintenance
Location: Section 14c, Carver's Gap to Grassy Ridge
People: Joe DeLoach
Summary: I met the 2014 Roan Ridgerunner Fletcher Meadema, John Odell from ATC, Alice Cohen from the Cherokee NF, and David McFee from the Pisgah NF for a field orientation trip. We discussed some of the issues that arise with visitors to the Roan Highlands, messaging, and logistics for Fletcher's tenure which begins on May 22. It was very good to have the Forest Service along for the orientation. I walked from Carver's Gap to Grassy Ridge with the group, then Fletcher and John continued to Yellow Mtn Gap, the FS personnel returned, and I did some clipping on the Grassy Ridge Trail. David told me it was a Pisgah NF system trail, and they had

lopped farther out than I normally do. Nothing denotes that the Grassy Ridge Trail dead ends, so sometimes hikers proceed onto private land or try to make loops. The post set at the junction is still there with a paper sign laminated in plastic. David said if we want to make a routed post, which would be more permanent and maybe less likely to disappear, they could set it.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 5/21/2014

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds at the Trail across the Osborne Farm. We reseeded the banks at the stiles. The cairns in the pasture field that were installed this spring have been torn down by the cattle. Ted restacked two of them.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 5/21/2014

Purpose: Hard Core Clean Up

Location: Elizabethton, TN

People: Jim Chambers, Tyler Sharp, Natasha Sharp

Summary: I lured my neighbors over to my place with free food and we cleaned hard hats and tools from Hard Core.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 5/22/2014

Purpose: Clear large blowdown

Location: Section 8, Watauga Dam to Shelter

People: Brian Paley, Bob Peoples

Summary: A large blowdown created a hazard for hikers. Because the 12' root ball was near the trail, we dug a relocation to route hikers above the tree. This will require some further work.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 5/24/2014

Purpose: Reroute trail around blowdown

Location: Section 8, Trail south of dam

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Mike Price, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples; HIKER: Lee Brown

Summary: A 30-inch-plus red oak fell with 12' root ball suspended over trail. We had to build a 120-foot trail around back of the root ball using plenty of rock and log cribbing plus about eight log steps. We also rehabbed an old sliding root ball hole with rock and log cribbing. Hiker, Lee, is a landscaper and was amazed how much work goes into building trail.

Reporting: John Robbins

Date: 5/24/2014

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 3b, US421 to spring

People: John Robbins

Summary: I cut back limbs and briars, cleaned out water bars, repaired a trail around a couple of them, and removed a couple small blowdowns. There is one large blowdown across the trail about 100 yards north of US421 that needs to be cut out with a chainsaw. I picked up a couple bags of trash around the US421 parking areas and talked to 7 or 8 hikers.

Reporting: John Robbins

Date: 5/26/2014

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 3b, Spring to US421

People: John Robbins

Summary: I completed pruning to the spring, broke up three fire rings, and packed out trash from the fire rings.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 5/26/2014

Purpose: Check weed conditions at trailhead

Location: Section 13, 19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We went to the 19E trailhead to clear some weeds. A couple day hikers reported a small blowdown about a 1/4 mile in, which we cut down and removed. We went in about 1/2 mile clearing water bars and collecting a very minimal amount of trash. We noticed there are two new signs right below the trailhead.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 5/27/2014

Purpose: Routine weeding at trailhead

Location: Section 13, 19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We returned to the 19E trailhead with a light-weight lawn mower and cut down the weeds and grass on both sides of the trail. We went in about 1/8 mile across the first stream and around the bend where the weeds were at their worst. We picked up a few pieces of trash. As we were leaving, a section hiker named Steve offered to pay us for a ride to Iron Mtn Gap. He left his car and wallet there two nights ago and wanted to get his vehicle to Mt. Harbor Hostel. Since we were going in that direction, we gave him a free ride. His car was ok. His goal is to stay at Kincora. After finishing his hike in Damascus, he wants to return in the future to help Bob Peoples with trail maintenance. I said Bob would love that because we always need good help.