



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

July 2014

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

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## 2014 Damascus Hard Core

*Carl Fritz reporting*

It always seems that the volunteers (hikers, club maintainers and friends) exceed expectations during Damascus Hard Core. And the volunteers did so again for this 14th annual event. This year's hikers enthusiastically signed up. In fact 68 were signed up in the first two hours, Friday morning, of Trail Days and only 50 was the target. However, fewer returning hikers came to Trail Days and we also target 50 of them. Then surprisingly with good weather, many hikers did not show up Sunday morning for departure from Damascus.

But it was all upbeat on both Sunday and Monday, May 18 and 19, in spite of

being about 25 hikers fewer than we planned. The weather cooled off and started in the lower forties at the work sites on Sunday morning. Each day we had part of the crew at Little Rock Knob digging a long relocation and the larger crew just north of Ash Gap digging on the last eight remaining relocations between Cloudland and Ash Gap.

The crew at Little Rock Knob did some beautiful rock work. As Camo said, "We were really fortunate that all the rock was available in the area; it was needed." He also said at 2 o'clock on the second afternoon that there was no way to open this relocation. But they persisted until they could open it and blaze it. So in the two days, they successfully built 1600 feet of trail to replace the 600 feet of the steep rocky climb to the Little Rock Knob vista.

Likewise, the crew at Ash Gap were just as determined. By late Monday afternoon, they had completed and opened seven of the eight relocations. And they jumped in to finish the last relocation. At 4 o'clock they started the last rock switchback by hauling rock 100 feet or more. We essentially finished that switchback, but could not complete a substantial crib to open that eighth relocation. (It was opened by the Club ten days later.) In total, Hard Core dug about 2000 feet of trail north of Ash Gap.

Thus, 3600 feet of difficult trail was built in two days! And the Appalachian Trail is on a much better grade that is more resistant to erosion.

A.T. License Plate grants from North Carolina and Tennessee funded both dinners. Club volunteers, coordinated by Ed Oliver, prepared the Sunday dinner and hikers, coordinated by "Baltimore Jack," prepared the Monday dinner. If you live in a state with an A.T. license plate, consider purchasing one for your vehicle to support trail work and demonstrate your commitment.

Hard Core patches/rockers were distributed. As usual, "One Pint" provided something unique, like full snack bags, for the hikers so they would not be famished during the day. ALDHA provided funds for additional hiker lunches and water bottles for both days. Andrew Downs provided Trail Karma high performance t-shirts to all participants. Many were worn on the second day of Hard Core and many are being seen on the trail.

In total there were 79 hikers and 37 club members and friends or 116 volunteers contributing 2359 hours to make this event a success!

These TEHCC members, program affiliates and local friends participated: Brian Paley, Carl Fritz, Curtis Baird, Dean Baird, George Thorpe, Greg Kramer, John Robbins, Allie McDonald, Arunas Bartkus, Ken Buchanan, Kevin Sedgwick, Kim Peters, Steve Perri, Steven Wilson, Theodore G. Mowery, Tim Stewart, Bob Peoples, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, John Beaudet, Pat Loven, Carol Dunham, Daryel Anderson, Dave Dunham, Ed Oliver, Juana Anderson, Karen Loven, Marsha Hupko, Mary Jane Fritz, Mike Hupko, Pat Buchanan, Paul

Benfield, Bill Ristom, Diana Ristom, Julie Judkins, David LaPorte, John Botts, Kendall Abruzzese, Nathan Laporte, Rio Berry, Andrew Downs.

These are the current year hikers and hiker alumni who participated: Alexandra Cockfield, Alice Feinald, Allie McDonald, Arunas Bartkus, Brian Maxwell Ruotsi, Chris Minnich, Dave Murphy, Samantha Mills, Tim Burton, Diana Moedinger, Donald Crook, Drew Lazelle, Ellie Beckett, Felicia Nardella, Franklin LaFowd, Hank Holleman, Jack C Gilbert, Jack Despres, Jacob Bison, Jake Bison, James Flynn, Jamie Ratchford, Jay De Wilbur, Jeff Klime, Joe Bizos, John McKinney, Jonathan Warren, Joseph Lucius Nelson, Kathy Markwad, Kay Ce Wilbur, Kayla Carter, Kevin Beberas, Kevin Delancy, Kevin Kiernan, Kristen Davis, Kuelan Archer, Lucius Nelson, Mike Geischen, Muriel Epling, Noah Naseri, Rita Ross, Robert Stormes, Samantha Mairson, Jack Tarlin, Richard Calkins, Samantha Mills, Tim Burton, Timothy Schmidt, Travis Glynn, Walter Martin, Adam Beard, Adama Malkia McGaepth, Ben Buchwald, Ben Moedinger, Christian Steeves, Christopher Hood, Dan Sanford, Donna Dean, Gabe Cisneros, Jennifer Berry, Jim Sain, Jon Borden, Kevin Beck, Laura Reed, Lewis Moyers, Matt Newman, Megan Kelly, Mike Laude, Mike Price, Nicole Laeger, Peter Bryan Garah, Phil Abruzzese, Sarah Coughtrie, Scott Ourth, "Chef Paul," "Snake Bite," Chris, David Bowie, Amy C Sternheim, Jack Tarlin, Richard Calkins.

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## Oliver Hollow Use Restriction Due to Bear Activity

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The National Forest Service lands are closed to most recreation from north of Shook Branch (US 321) to a half-mile north of Wilbur Dam Road. Bears are active in this area. Individuals are only permitted to hike through this area. Please continue hiking through this area without stopping. Watauga Lake Shelter is closed. No preparation or consumption of food or overnight stays allowed. This closure is effective until December 1, 2015. [Oliver Hollow bear closure map](#)

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## In Memory of Darrol Nickels

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*Joe DeLoach reporting*

It is always sad when we lose a longtime active member of TEHCC, and few have meant as much to us as Darrol Nickels. Born January 10, 1927 in Wise County, Virginia, Darrol passed away on May 30, preceded by his beloved wife of 64 years, Georgia. Darrol retired from Eastman after 40 years of service in 1987, and his first technical report pertained to purification of the key monomer in Eastman's Tritan® copolyester! Not long after his arrival at Eastman, Darrol became a very active participant with TEHCC and the Appalachian Trail, contributing 38 years as a volunteer maintainer. He received the Stan Murray Award from TEHCC in 1995. In 1990, Darrol was our first Maintainer of the Year and received that award again in 2005. He was three times our Hiker of the Year, in 1970, 1971, and 1983, and was one of our first members to complete the entire A.T., in 1985. In 2000, Darrol was recognized, along with fellow TEHCC members, the late Ray Hunt, the late Frank Oglesby, and Ed Oliver, among 75 people named to the Appalachian Trail Conference "Honor Roll of Volunteers." In 2004, he received the President's Call to Service award for over 4000 hours of volunteer service. As Darrol started before our record keeping, his lifetime volunteer hours are much higher than that; he was one of our most active volunteers for many years. Darrol's volunteer roles included our Structures Coordinator, guidebook data compiler, Open Areas Coordinator, longstanding member of our A.T. Committee, and member of our Steering Committee.

Although Darrol's recognition was very well deserved, his contributions went far, far beyond awards. In the 1960's, Darrol and several other members of TEHCC organized the Roan Mountain Preservation Committee to provide better protection for the Appalachian Trail and surrounding environment through the Roan Highlands. In 1974, this organization became the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) and Darrol remained very active within it. He received the SAHC Stan Murray Award for volunteer service in 1992. Darrol was one of the organizers of the State of Franklin Group (northeast Tennessee) of the Sierra Club. He researched, explored, and advocated for the area on Iron Mountain which was Congressionally designated as the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness Area within the Cherokee National Forest. Darrol and others advocated for a park on the Holston River side of Bays Mountain, and he wrote the resolution which, with one added stipulation, was passed by the Hawkins County Commission and led to the creation of Laurel Run Park.

Though Darrol's contributions and accomplishments alone are so noteworthy, the fondest memories I have are what a joy he was to be around. Darrol was of very high intellect and skills, ranging from a master carpenter to a meticulous data recorder to an accomplished amateur biologist. Darrol knew plants that no one else knew, and without a bone of pretentiousness in his body would patiently describe how to identify them. He knew the Latin names but used the common ones. Darrol literally knew the mountains like the back of his hand, more thoroughly than anyone I've ever met. He also had a keen wit and a wry sense of humor. At a Forest Service meeting where an equestrian was pressing to keep an exceptionally steep trail open to horse use, Darrol, who was much more familiar with the trail than anyone in the room, said "it would be faster to just shoot the horse." At an SAHC meeting he conned me into joining him for a karaoke duet of "Dang Me" by Roger Miller, which has unlikely ever had such an uglier rendition. When Darrol was around his friends like Frank Williams, John Thompson, or Frank Oglesby, you could count on laughs. What shone

through the most about Darrol was his love for Georgia. She knitted him an orange and gray toboggan which he always wore on the cold outings. It is folded under his hands in his final resting place.

Darrol's family has suggested that memorial contributions be given to the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, 34 Wall Street Suite 502, Asheville, NC 28801. Carl Fritz and Joe DeLoach are collecting for a contribution in behalf of TEHCC; please contact one of us if you are interested in contributing in that manner.

Thank you Darrol for being part of our lives. We will deeply miss you.



Darrol (second from left) along with other TEHCC members during construction of the Don Nelan Shelter in 1981

Darrol (fourth from right) and other SAHC founders at Judy Murray's retirement celebration in April 2014



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## Wilderness First Aid Offering

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### *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](mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org).

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## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

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James Goetz  
Henry Russell

Thomas Kennedy  
Julie Taylor

Marcos Morand  
Ginette Tolleson

Matthew Paul  
John Tolleson

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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
July 6-8	Konnarock Project, near Clyde Smith Shelter	<a href="#">Carl Fritz</a>	423-477-4669
July 6	F/B: <a href="#">Laurel Falls</a> from Dennis Cove	<a href="#">Barry Griggs</a>	423-239-5676 or 423-863-4590
July 12	<a href="#">ATC Invasive Plant Workday</a> , Lemon Gap, NC	<a href="#">Rhys Brydon-Williams</a>	828-254-3708
July 13	<a href="#">Rocky Fork</a> - White House Cliffs	Tim McClain	423-239-5353
July 17	F/B: FunFest Moonlight Hike	<a href="#">Vic Hasler</a>	423-239-0388
July 15	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	<a href="#">Brien Lewis</a>	615-828-8206
July 19	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a>	423-366-0128
July 20	F/B: <a href="#">Cloudland Trail</a>	Mary Fanslow	423-707-5004
July 24-28	Konnarock Project, near Clyde Smith Shelter	<a href="#">Carl Fritz</a>	423-477-4669
July 27	F/B: <a href="#">Bays Mountain Park</a> , View from Antennas	<a href="#">Tim Schaefer</a>	423-302-0846
Aug 1 & 2	<a href="#">APEs Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Course</a>	<a href="#">Scott Fisher</a>	276-698-4644

### 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.

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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](#), [APEs](#), and other paddlers from our region at Freedom Hall Pool for tips about basic kayaking skills. 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. 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.**

Note: The J.A.W. provides the current fleet of boats for demo at the pool session, but neither the pool nor the J.A.W. provides paddling equipment (paddle, spray skirt, etc.). If you are just starting out in the sport and do not 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.

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

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

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 135-mile section each week, usually on Thursdays.

## **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**

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

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.

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

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

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.

## **3rd Saturday, 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 Falls](#) from Dennis Cove – Sunday, July 6, 2014**

Leader: Barry Griggs (423-239-5676 or 863-4590)

Rating: Easy 2.6 mile round trip hike

For the 50th Anniversary of Wilderness Act, the Cherokee National Forest is featuring this specific hike in the Pond Mountain Wilderness area during July. The same waterfall was reached via the Hampton blue blaze trail back on April 6th, 2014, so this time we're coming in from the other direction. Leave Colonial Heights at 1 pm to arrive at the Dennis Cove trailhead by 2 pm. Expected return is at 6 pm. Due to being a wilderness area, group size is limited to 14.

### **Konnarock Crew – Sunday, July 6 thru Tuesday, July 8, 2014**

Leader: Carl Fritz (423-477-4669)

Come join us for at least one of the days: Sunday, July 6th, through Tuesday, July 8th. We will be working with Konnarock crew on digging a side hill trail relocation near Clyde Smith Shelter. We spent two weeks working on this relocation last year and with a good turn out we should finish it in these three days.

Konnarock Crew will probably number about seven. Two will be experienced crew leaders. The remainder could be first timers in digging trail. They camp out near work site for four nights. We make day trips to assist them. The hike to the work site is about a mile and a half with a good portion off trail on a path. Please let me know what days you plan to come.

### **[ATC Invasive Plant Workday](#), Lemon Gap, NC – Saturday, July 12, 2014, 9:30 am**

This event is being hosted by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Individuals or groups interested in volunteering or carpooling should contact Rhys Brydon-Williams at [rbrydon@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:rbrydon@appalachiantrail.org) or 828-254-3708. For more information about the workday, go to [Invasive-exotic-plant-workday-at-lemon-gap](#). To carpool to Lemon Gap, meet at 160 Zillicoa Street, Asheville, NC at 8 am.

### **[Rocky Fork](#), White House Cliffs – Sunday, July 13, 2014**

Leader: Tim McClain (423-239-5353)

Rating: Unknown – Estimated 3 mile trip with ~900 ft elevation gain

During the prior November hike, it was observed that the new trail to the top of the first highpoint was open. This hike will explore the new path which winds around the knob. It is not being rated the normal “F/B” for these Sunday afternoon hikes due to the unknown conditions. The expected reward is a great view of the Rocky Fork tract. Leave Colonial Heights at 1:00PM or Johnson City at 1:20PM to arrive at the trailhead of I-26, Exit 46 by 2PM. Will need to minimize the number of vehicles as limited parking available at the trailhead.

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

Contact: Vic Hasler, 423-239-0388, [events@tehcc.org](mailto: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.

## **F/B: [Bays Mountain Park, View from the Antennas](#) – Sunday, July 27, 2014**

Leader: Tim Schaefer, 423-302-0846, [webmaster@tehcc.org](mailto:webmaster@tehcc.org)

Rating: 4-5 mile hike with ~400 ft elevation change

You've seen them from Kingsport – the antennas up on Bays Mountain. Now imagine the view of looking back down into the city – to see places like Church Circle, Holston Valley Medical Center, and of course, the Big "E". It's leader's choice of which trails to take based on the group. Possible routes could involve Bays Mountain Road, Azalea Trail, Lake Road, or Chestnut Trail. Meet at 1:30 PM in Bays Mountain Park (\$4 entrance fee) near the front entrance to the Nature Center. The group should be done by 4:30 PM, leaving time for further park enjoyment before the park closes at 8:00 PM.

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## **For the Record**

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### **F/B: Hughes Gap to Little Knob, Sunday, April 17, 2014**

Mike Watts reporting

Beautiful weather created ideal conditions for an afternoon hike and a very pleasant climb to Little Rock Knob. Wild flowers beginning to make their appearance added color, and the hike culminated with expansive views from Little Rock Knob. We shared the trail with nearly twenty through hikers. On this hike were Sharon Burnette and her granddaughter Kayden, Stephanie Sager, Steve Ankabrandt, Vic Hasler, and Mike Watts.



Photo by Sharon Burnette

### **F/B: Kiner Hollow Waterfalls in Laurel Run Park, Sunday, May 18, 2014**

Gary Luttrell reporting

It was a beautiful day for a hike: not too hot, not too cold - just right -and, the creek flow was about normal. We spent a few minutes selecting a route to cross the creek and only one hiker slipped and got her foot wet. We saw a few wildflowers, including fire pink; and, after seeing a large spider hanging onto a leaf (see photo), everyone stayed on the trail. Hikers joining the hike leader included Sharon Burnette, her Granddaughter Kayden McKinney, Kamil Toga, and Stephanie Sager.



*Photos submitted by Sharon Burnette*



*Photos submitted by Gary Luttrell*

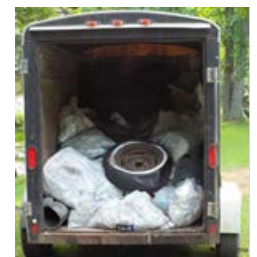
### **F/B: Bays Mountain Park – Lakeside Trail, Saturday, May 31, 2014**

*Bob Miller reporting*

This was scheduled as a hike around the lake at Bays Mountain Park on Saturday afternoon. The 2.3-mile hike took about 90 minutes. Although attendance was low, the hike was an enjoyable stroll. The hike was led by 95-year-old Bob Miller with his friend from church, Eric Greer.

### **13th Annual APE's Nolichucky River Cleanup = Success!**

45 volunteers participated on the June 21<sup>st</sup> effort based out of U.S.A. Raft Outpost. Over 50 bags of trash were collected from in and around the banks of the river, including several tires, wheels, and large debris. The U.S. Forest Service then hauled the junk to local dumpsites. Thanks to everyone for all the hard work and dedication to make this cleanup a wonderful success. It's a collaborated effort to keep our river clean and pristine for us and future generations to enjoy. And we'll just keep on doing it as long as it's needed! A special thank you goes out to Debbie Briscoe for her continued effort in organizing this event each year.





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## A.T. Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/29/2014

**Purpose:** Dig relocation south of Cloudland

**Location:** Section 15b, Near Ash Gap

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Peter King, Greg Kramer, Mike Laude, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Mike Price, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe; HIKER: Adamn-Malkia McGaepth

**Summary:** With a great turnout of volunteers we finished digging the last remaining relocation and rehabbed some of old trail. Paul and Daryel were able to nail most of the stakes to locust log steps so they will not heave out of ground with winter freezes. We opened the last relocation between Cloudland and Hughes Gap. We even had a ribbon cutting to make it official after almost exactly five years of digging on this mountain. To everyone involved over about eight years, including the flagging and surveys, "THANK YOU." And the thank you comes regularly from hikers.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 5/31/2014

**Purpose:** Cut blowdown

**Location:** Section 3b, About 100 yards north of US 421

**People:** Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We cut and removed a good-sized blowdown reported earlier.

**Reporting:** John Robbins

**Date:** 5/31/2014

**Purpose:** Trim weeds

**Location:** Section 3b, US 421 to spring

**People:** John Robbins

**Summary:** I trimmed weeds from US 421 going north to the wall. I will need to come back and finish the rest.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 5/31/2014

**Purpose:** Repair Trail

**Location:** Section 17, South of Iron Mountain Gap

**People:** Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We repaired steps located about 500 feet from Iron Mountain Gap and cut two small trees from the trail about 1000 feet farther south.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 5/31/2014

**Purpose:** Check trail for downed trees

**Location:** Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to FS230

**People:** Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We removed one large tree about 3 feet above the trail and removed five other trees of various sizes from the trail.

**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 6/1/2014

**Purpose:** Cut annual growth

**Location:** Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Little Hump

**People:** Lynn DiFiore

**Summary:** I used a trimmer to cut back grass and weeds along the trail towards Little Hump. A small amount of trash was picked up at the barn (thanks Fletcher!). There are still quite a few thru hikers on trail.



**Reporting:** John Robbins

**Date:** 6/1/2014

**Purpose:** Trim weeds

**Location:** Section 3b, US 421 to spring

**People:** John Robbins

**Summary:** I completed all weed trimming from US 421 to the spring, packed out some trash, and picked up trash from both sides of the trail head.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 6/4/2014

**Purpose:** Remove blowdown and repair trail

**Location:** Section 19b, South of Curley Maple Shelter

**People:** Jim Chambers, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** We removed a tangle of blowdowns south of Curley Maple Shelter; then cribbed the low side of the trail where hikers had to climb over the trees.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 6/5/2014

**Purpose:** Trail Maintenance

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed the camping area at the Barn and trimmed weeds to the toilet and springs. There are numerous trails into the woods above the barn and camping area and one above the spring.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 6/6/2014

**Purpose:** Trail Maintenance

**Location:** Section 1, Abingdon Gap Shelter to TN/VA state line

**People:** Jim Chambers

**Summary:** I continued to cut back greenbriar and summer vegetation in my section.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 6/7/2014

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 12c, Along Elk River to Sugar Hollow Creek

**People:** Steve Perri, Tisha Perri

**Summary:** We drove in from Elk Falls recreation area with gate access via the club key. We cut weeds along Elk River up to Sugar Hollow Creek. The weeds were between 4 and 5 feet high. We lopped some laurel branches along the A.T. from the access point to the river. Several north bounders passed us along the way.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 6/7/2014

**Purpose:** Deliver shovel to shelter and do touch up work on new relo

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

**People:** Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Bruce and I delivered a shovel to Clyde Smith Shelter and then proceeded to do touch up work on the new relo at Little Rock Knob. We got quite a bit done, but there's still a lot that could be done.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/7/2014

**Purpose:** Routine Maintenance

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

**People:** Jim Chambers, Dave Clark, Carl Fritz

**Summary:** We cut weeds on the entire section; most were getting very healthy and encroaching on trail. We removed six blowdowns (about 7-inches in diameter) that were knee height and obstacles. We cleaned about ten water bars that were full of silt and probably a mile from shelter. Remaining 67 water bars will need cleaning later this year. Trail is in good shape.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 6/10/2014

**Purpose:** Give presentation and recruit volunteers

**Location:** General Morgan Inn, Greeneville

**People:** Joe Morris, Robin Dean

**Summary:** We gave a presentation to the Greeneville Rotary Club and representatives from Walters State Community College regarding trail maintenance and recruiting future maintainers.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 6/10/2014

**Purpose:** Maintain Trail

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

**People:** Bob Peoples, Jim Chambers, Tim Stewart; Duke Initiative Program: Hannah Budd, Skylar Collins, Caroline Brewer, Grace Li, Marcus Hosack, Antavious Hahr, Nic Narvades, Timothy Leurart, Seshan Sayapregoshan, Sarah Polster, Katherine Mahoney, Bailey Lowman, Natalie Miller, Lillian Wolfe, Avery Hurst, Sam Mather, Nikisa Popitz, Kyle Keith, Tommy Fitzgerald, Alex Freeman

**Summary:** Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart and I led the Duke Initiative Program kids on a hike/trail maintenance outing from US 19E to north of Bishop Hollow. We conducted light maintenance with loppers and hand tools, and also taught the kids about the trail and the Golden Winged Warbler. Bob's group actually saw the Golden Winged Warbler, as well as the Blue Winged Warbler in flight.



*Trail Maintenance Crew from the Duke Initiate Program*

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/12/2014

**Purpose:** Dig trail relocation

**Location:** Section 16a, Little Rock Knob

**People:** Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick

**Summary:** We did some polishing on the relocation by adding quite a few rock steps, changing the southern intersection, and removing some duff in some areas. We almost completed the lower leg. Another day will be required to complete the entire relocation.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 6/12/2014

**Purpose:** Reestablish an old relo flag line and cut it out

**Location:** Section 1, Backbone Rock Trail

**People:** Ed Oliver, Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Jim Foster

**Summary:** We found our old relo, put up new flags, and trimmed it out. The Appy State students will work there in August.

**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 6/13/2014

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

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

**People:** Lynn DiFiore, Lyndsey Smith

**Summary:** We cut weeds and briars, and lopped branches from the Barn to Stan Murray. Lyndsey successfully relocated five eastern newts from the path of the trimmer. We picked up a small amount of trash from both shelters. Our second attempt to install the privy sign was unsuccessful as the bolt heads sheared off in the locust post. We saw several day and section hikers, but no thru hikers.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 6/14/2014

**Purpose:** Summer Maintenance

**Location:** Section 18, Deep Gap to Beauty Spot

**People:** Eric Middlemas, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We mowed a short section of the A.T. and the trail to the spring at Deep Gap. We also cut a small tree blocking the trail to the spring. We mowed all of Beauty Spot Gap, about 1500 feet of the A.T. on Beauty Spot, and the access trail from the parking area. We picked up trash at all three areas.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 6/14/2014

**Purpose:** Mow Osborne Farm

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We trimmed weeds and mowed the Trail across the Osborne Farm. The Trail needs to be sprayed. Grass and weeds are growing in the trail. One hiker using a cane was walking on the trail. We also met and chatted with Dave Startzell who is hiking the trail from Springer Mtn to Damascus and wishes to say hi to the other members of TEHCC.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 6/16/2014

**Purpose:** Clear trail

**Location:** Section 20a, Near Nolichucky River and Temple Hill Gap

**People:** Craig Haire

**Summary:** I cleared undergrowth from one mile of trail with a string trimmer at the south end of the section. I removed a few small blowdowns at the north end with a handsaw.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 6/17/2014

**Purpose:** Summer Maintenance

**Location:** Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap to Weedy Gap

**People:** Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Eric Middlemas, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We mowed weeds and grass along the trail, cleaned water bars, removed limbs from the trail, cut low overhanging branches, and picked up trash. The spring at the orchard was flowing well.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 6/17/2014

**Purpose:** Trim trail

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

**People:** Ed Oliver, Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Bruce and I started at Greasy Creek and used a string trimmer to trim the trail to just north of Little Rock Knob. Ed came in from Hughes Gap and trimmed using a swing blade. The trail is in fine shape, but there is some lopping still to be done.

**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 6/18/2014

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

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

**People:** Lynn DiFiore, Lyndsey Smith, Sean Darling

**Summary:** Our third attempt to install the privy sign was successful. We picked up a small amount of trash and started up towards Little Hump with the swingblade and loppers, but a huge thunderstorm turned us back early.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 6/19/2014

**Purpose:** Clear trail

**Location:** Section 20a, Near Nolichucky River

**People:** Craig Haire

**Summary:** About 1/2 mile of undergrowth was cleared with a string trimmer and a small blowdown was removed with an electric chainsaw.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 6/19/2014

**Purpose:** Trail maintenance

**Location:** Section 2a, Abingdon Gap Shelter to VA/TN State Line

**People:** Jim Chambers, Lumpy

**Summary:** I finished a two-day greenbriar/weed whacking marathon in my section. I still have a full day of work in order to finish, but I will get it all completed in the coming days. Lumpy was a tremendous help shuttling me so I could maximize my time. I also have a new blowdown from today's afternoon storm that will require a chainsaw. I will get it as soon as possible.

**Reporting:** Gayle Riddervold

**Date:** 6/20/2014

**Purpose:** Routine Maintenance

**Location:** Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

**People:** Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

**Summary:** We hiked in about a mile to trim some stinging nettle, weeds, and rhododendrons. There's a small blowdown slightly blocking the path which is also a mile up the trail. Since we didn't have a small saw with us, we'll tend to this on our next trip.

**Reporting:** Steve Wilson

**Date:** 6/21/2014

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and lop branches

**Location:** Section 3a, From Abingdon Gap Shelter to the spring 2.3 miles north of Low Gap

**People:** Steve Perri, Steve Wilson

**Summary:** We cut weeds and lopped tree branches between Abingdon Gap Shelter and the spring 2.3 miles north of Low Gap. It was wet work with rain most of the day. We found that the shelter's roof leaks on the back left about 18 inches from the wall. This section of trail is in good shape.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 6/21/2014

**Purpose:** Cut weeds, install sign post

**Location:** Section 14c: Stan Murray Shelter to Grassy Ridge Trail junction

**People:** Marsha Lynch, Jeff Howe, Steven Parfitt, Stephen Wang, Phyllis Cairnes, Rolla Wade, Joe DeLoach, Lotta Murray, Ken Murray, Kim Peters

**Summary:** For this 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools, we set out to cut the weeds from the Stan Murray Shelter to the Grassy Ridge Trail junction. The secondary goal was to install a new signpost at the trail junction. We accomplished both tasks despite the on and off rain which lasted most of the day leaving us all a little wet and muddy. Luckily as we turned around to head back, the sun came out and we got dried off. We had a great turnout on this rainy day and with so many hands available, we were able to take turns with the swing blades and post carrying and no one had to work very hard. We met countless hikers, day hiking and backpacking. Most of them stopped to thank us for our work and many made comments on how well maintained the trail was. Much thanks to Joe DeLoach for teaching us how to identify the rare plant in the area, Bent Avens so that we didn't cut it. Joe also brought a nifty plastic folder to place the new log book into at the shelter. It seems the gallon-size Ziploc bags that we used previously disappear rather quickly. Hopefully this container is less tempting to hikers. The weeds to the water source at the shelter were also cut, but it was too wet to paint blazes. The blazes were not in that bad of shape though. The water source was just a trickle and probably would have been mostly dry if it had not been raining all day. Surprisingly, no trash was found at the shelter - thanks Fletcher!

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/21/2014

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and multiflora rose

**Location:** Sections 12c and 12d, Half-mile north of Campbell Hollow Road to US 19E

**People:** Paul Benfield, Rhys Brydon-Williams, Jim Chambers, Dave Clark, Carl Fritz, John Robbins, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We cut weeds and did some lopping from the stream north of Campbell Hollow Road to 19E. Some cut multiflora rose from High Point to Bishop Hollow. The Trail is in good shape.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 6/23/2014

**Purpose:** Summer Maintenance

**Location:** Section 18, Beauty Spot to south FS 230

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

**Summary:** We mowed the south side of Beauty Spot and trail to FS230. We used a brush blade to cut back woody growth in the wooded area of the trail, picked up trash, and lopped low-hanging branches.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 6/23/2014

**Purpose:** Trail Maintenance

**Location:** Section 1, Trail North of Abingdon Gap Shelter

**People:** Jim Chambers, Lumpy

**Summary:** Lumpy and I removed the new blowdown on my section of trail.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 6/25/2014

**Purpose:** Summer Maintenance

**Location:** Section 18, FS230 switchback to Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Bruce Darby, David Douthat, Jeannine Edwards, Ernie Hartford, Jerry Jones, Wayne Jones, Judy Middlemas, Eric Middlemas, Susan Peters, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We mowed the wooded area of trail from FS 230 switchback to Indian Grave Gap, lopped low-hanging branches, and picked up trash.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/26/2014

**Purpose:** Dig relocation

**Location:** Section 16a, Little Rock Knob

**People:** John Beaudet, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Mike Price

**Summary:** We continued to polish the new relocation at Little Rock Knob. One more day is required to finish this work. We also added some rock steps to two large rock obstacles in existing trail just north of Little Rock Knob. Considerable lopping of rhodos in this area was also done. A section hiker who is within 100 miles of completing trail was discouraged to hear that we had lengthened the trail north of Hughes Gap by 2 miles. We expect he will be thanking us like most hikers after he walks the section.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 6/26/2014

**Purpose:** Relocate Trail

**Location:** Section 5, TN 91 south

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Daryl Anderson, Pat Loven

**Summary:** We cut and removed nine fallen trees from the trail and dug 350 feet of relocation. We would have completed this relocation, but each person had exceeded his limit for the day according to Bodacious's formula per days trail building.