



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

August 2014

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

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## From the Chair

*Brien Lewis, Steering Committee Chair*

What is "Leave No Trace"? Here is a hint: It is far more than packing out trash. Leave No Trace is based on seven principles: Plan Ahead and Prepare, Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces, Dispose of Waste Properly, Leave What You Find, Minimize Campfire Impacts, Respect Wildlife, and Be Considerate of Other Visitors. Basic knowledge of these principles should be inherent to every hiker or outdoor enthusiast, but we often overlook even the most basic of LNT practices. The Sequoia Council of the Boys Scouts of America are graciously hosting a Leave No Trace trainer-led course at Camp Davy Crockett in Whitesburg, TN on September 12-14, 2014. Cost is \$60 and meals are included. Please visit [www.scbasa.org](http://www.scbasa.org) for additional information on

the event and [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org) for information regarding Leave No Trace outdoor ethics.



## Leave No Trace Trainer Course

**Date: September 12-14, 2014**

**Registration 7:00 pm Friday to 1:00 pm Sunday**

**Location: Camp Davy Crockett**

**Fee: \$60 includes meals**

**[Click for more details](#)**

## Oliver Hollow Use Restriction Due to Bear Activity

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](#)

## Fall Dinner Meeting – Friday, October 3rd – Make these evening plans!

Arrangements are underway for the Fall Dinner meeting. Ed Montgomery will be speaking about the recent trip on the "River of No Return," which was made famous in a 1954 Western starring Marilyn Monroe and Robert Mitchum. It actually refers to the Middle Fork of the Salmon Impassable Canyon section in Idaho. Please join several TEHCC members, spouses and friends to relive the 100-mile river adventure of this past July, including the trip details, whitewater action, side hikes, hot springs and other attractions in the breathtaking Frank Church Wilderness Area. More details will be forthcoming via e-mail and September newsletter as they develop.

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## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act – SAWS Wilderness Rally, Sept 6

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### *Steve Perri reporting*

This year marks the 50-year milestone of the passage of the Wilderness Act, signed by President Lyndon Johnson on September 3, 1964. The act created the National Wilderness Preservation System, i.e., congressionally designated areas we know today as Wilderness - with an upper case "W." Whereas wilderness (lower-case) is a term used to describe a general location away from developed areas. There are now more than 110 million acres of land in the U.S. protected through the US Wilderness Act, protecting undeveloped Federal land with the intent to retain its primeval character and influence. Today, most of the large Wilderness areas reside in the western states and Alaska; but locally there are smaller Wilderness areas in the Cherokee National Forest, such as Big Laurel Branch, Pond Mountain, Sampson Mountain and Unaka Mountain Wilderness. Other areas a little farther away in the Pisgah National Forest in NC include Shining Rock, Middle Prong, and Linville Gorge. In Virginia in the Mount Rogers NRA, there are the Lewis Fork, Little Wilson Creek, and Raccoon Branch Wilderness.

Wilderness areas have been designated as special places that are intended to be left wild. Since the Act was passed, Congress has had the role of creating new Wilderness areas. Minimal impacts from man is highly desirable to maintain the wild character that is the spirit of the Act. Typically, pre-existing trails and primitive structures may be maintained only with minimal tools (no power tools) in order to have a minimal impact on the remote environment. Locally, we have Wilderness areas that strive to protect lands from further development, including the building or maintenance of roads or any other developed trail system (horse, bicycle, ATV, etc). Finding large tracts of isolated land is becoming more challenging, with the pressures of our growing population and various forms of development.

TEHCC has partnered with the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS) to help maintain sections of the Appalachian Trail in Wilderness areas where maintenance with hand tools is required. SAWS has been an outstanding partner working with us and ATC to maintain the trail. Recently, SAWS took on the role of trail rehabilitation north of Big Laurel Branch Wilderness to reduce erosion where the trail was located on a steep grade. SAWS is hosting a Wilderness Rally in our area on September 6th from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, offering opportunities to celebrate the Wilderness Act Anniversary with selected hikes and volunteer projects in our nearby Wilderness areas. TEHCC is planning to support their events by helping lead hikes and work trips and staffing a table in the afternoon. For those interested in participating, there will be more information in the September newsletter. SAWS also has information about the event on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/528823097245420/?ref=22>. For more information about the Wilderness Act Anniversary, see: <http://www.wilderness50th.org/>.

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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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## Trading Post: Club Patch and Shirt

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### *Vic Hasler reporting*

The steering committee has made arrangements to have the club patch and shirt more readily available for sale. This information is now on the club website under the Membership drop-down tab.

**Club Patch:** The 4", 6-color patch is available for \$4 (including TN sales tax) each if obtained in person, picked up at the Building 310 Recreation office, or delivered through the Eastman plant mail. An extra \$1 is required for mailing to a USA address.

**Club Shirt:** The performance style t-shirt requires a minimum order of 12 shirts for the reprint. The club is covering the art and print set-up fees, so cost is \$20 each for the shirt, printing, and TN sales tax. Delivery choices are either pick up at TED Building 310 Gift Shop, sent by plant mail, or USPS mail to a USA address (at no additional cost).

Shirt options are:

- men's or women's (v-neck) cut
- S, M, L, XL, or XXL size
- Forest Green, True Navy, Heather Gray, Dark Denim, and Maroon shirt color

**Club shirt orders are now being taken through the fall dinner meeting.** If less than dozen are bought, then common option combinations will be used to fill out the reprint. This inventory will be available for immediate sale.

Steve Ankabrandt agreed to run this “Trading Post.” For best service, alert him to an order by e-mail to tradingpost [at] tehcc [dot] org; provide upfront payment in either cash or check made out to TEHCC at Building 310 Recreation Office.

Mailing address:

TEHCC Club Shirt/Patch Order  
400 South Wilcox Drive  
Kingsport, TN 37660

## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Thomas Grimes	Jianhui Zhou	Edmund Pohland	Rajesh Gupta
Joshua Griffey	Andi Hawksley	Julie Boyles	Randall Waymire
Mark Barb	Matthew Kimbro	Nicholas Cavopol	Richard Calkins
Marsha Lynch	Carson Gallimore	Tyler Armstrong	Blake Rupard

## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Aug 15	ASU Watauga Maintenance, Backbone Rock Trail	<a href="#">Carl Fritz</a>	423-477-4669
Aug 15-17	Annual “Babes on the Waves” River Run, Lower Pigeon River, Class I-II	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
Aug 16	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a>	423-366-0128
Aug 17	F/B: <a href="#">Bays Mountain Park</a> – Bays Ridge Loop	Tim McClain	423-239-5353
Aug 19	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	<a href="#">Brien Lewis</a>	615-828-8206
Aug 23	A.T.: Cloudland to Hughes Gap	<a href="#">Vic Hasler</a>	423-239-0388
Aug 24	F/B: <a href="#">Natural Tunnel SP</a> – <a href="#">Purchase Ridge Trail</a>	<a href="#">Barry Griggs</a>	423-239-5676 or 423-863-4590
Aug 30	APE’s Nolichucky Gorge 1 <sup>st</sup> Timers Trip & Picnic	<a href="#">Wesley R. Bradley</a> ,	423-647-1321
Aug 31	F/B: Low Gap (US 421) to Cross Mountain (TN 91)	TBD	
Sept 21	F/B: Lake Keokee Loop Trail	Terry Dougherty	423-502-5177

### 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, 7:30 – 9:00 pm**

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 fellowshipping 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: 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 During the Summer: Paddle to the Grill, 6:30 – 9:30 pm**

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. Also PFD's are mandatory.

#### **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/>

#### **Bi-Weekly on Saturdays, Lower Watauga, Class I and II, 3 – 7 pm**

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

#### **Annual "Babes on the Waves" River Run, August 15-17, 2014**

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

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

This year we're making it a weekend on the Pigeon River! Once a year all the female paddlers come together to rule the river. All are welcome, even you guys who don't want to be left out, we don't discriminate; but it's our day and we want to get as many female paddlers out on the water as we can. So all you gals out there, plan to join us on the water August 15 -17.

#### **F/B: [Bays Mountain Park](#)– [Bays Ridge](#)– Sunday, August 17, 2014**

Leader: [Tim McClain](#), 423-239-5353

Rating: 5.3 mile hike with 5.3 mile hike with ~700 ft elevation change for views to the east

The reservoir at Bays Mountain Park is surrounded by four ridgelines. This hike follows Bays Ridge Trail 2.6 mi. out to its end at Front Hollow Road, and then back 1.7 mi. to Ledbetter Gap and 1.0 mi. on Lake Road to the dam. The reward is nice views to the east. Con is the damage to Front Hollow Road caused by illegal ATV activity. 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.

### **AT: Cloudland to Hughes Gap – Saturday, August 23, 2014**

*Leader: Vic Hasler, 423-239-0388*

*Rating: 4.1+? mile hike downhill*

With Hard Core opening up the final relocations in Ash Gap, it's time to measure again the official length of the A.T. in this section for the guidebook and trail signs. After staging a vehicle at Hughes Gap, the intent of this hike is to enjoy the views while confirming the new distances using the club measuring wheel starting at Cloudland. We'll leave Colonial Heights at 8:00 am. Bring a sack lunch, water, clothing appropriate for the weather, camera, and trekking poles as desired.

### **F/B: [Natural Tunnel SP](#) – [Purchase Ridge Trail](#)– Sunday, August 24, 2014**

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

*Rating: Easy 3-4 mile hike with little ~340 ft elevation change*

The longest trail in Natural Tunnel State Park is Purchase Ridge which winds a couple miles from the campground through a hardwood forest to an overlook down for the railroad tunnel. This primary hike will only require a couple of hours, so depending on group interest, other short trails in the park could be explored. Hikers can either meet at 1 pm in Colonial Heights to carpool – or at the camp store in the park by 2 pm. Expected return to Kingsport is around 6 pm.

### **APes Nolichucky Gorge First Timers River Trip and Picnic, August 30, 2014**

*Leader: [Wesley R. Bradley](#), 423-647-1321; Lower Noli River Trip: [Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636*

Please join us for our largest group celebration of the year! Experienced paddlers will lead first timer's down both the Lower Nolichucky (Class I-II) and the Nolichucky Gorge (Class II-III/IV\*). All paddlers are welcome to attend! Meet at the USA Raft Outpost (take-out) at 11:00 am. USA Raft [Map Link](#) will shuttle our group up to the put-in using one of their raft buses and a boat trailer! This will make our logistics for shuttling very easy and our cars will be waiting for us back at the take out when we get off the river! Please bring \$5.00 to help cover the cost of this shuttle ride.

*\*Please be mindful of the water level for the day and your skill set, if you are a first timer on this trip.*

LOWER NOLICHUCKY River Trip (USA Raft Outpost to Sawmill) will be led by Debbie Briscoe. Plan to play a lot and maybe even stop to go swimming, with a snack break included to make it a fun day on the lower! Meet at the USA Raft Outpost (put-in) at 12:00 pm to set shuttle for the Lower Noli Trip. After the river trip, stick around for the annual APes Picnic to see what fun events are going on this fall!

Meet at the USA Raft Area take-out at 6:00 pm for the APes picnic. This is our last big "get together" for the year and we will have tasty food waiting for us at USA Raft when we get off the river! Please feel free to bring any side dishes or deserts to share with the group. If you are an APes member the dinner will be FREE and non-APE's members can chow down for a monetary donation. After the dinner we will have a quick meeting to discuss plans: Gauley Fest, G.A.F., Green Narrows Race, river trips, and set a date for the APes winter meeting. For additional picnic information/questions, contact, [Laura Ward](#), 423-967-6131.

### **F/B: AT: Low Gap (US 421) to Cross Mountain (TN 91) – Sunday, August 31, 2014**

*Leader: TBD*

*Rating: 6.5 mile along ridgeline with roughly 700' elevation gain/loss*

This Sunday afternoon hike features the Osborne Farm tract and an easy walk along the ridge between Iron Mountain and Holston Mountain. Meet at 1 pm in Colonial Heights. We'll drop off a vehicle at Cross Mtn parking lot on the way to Low Gap – and then hike back for the shuttle. Back in Kingsport by 8 pm sunset.

### **F/B: Lake Keokee Loop Trail – Sunday, September 21, 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 a leash. The group meeting place for this hike will be Gaty City at the Food Lion/Subway on the hill above US 23 at the Kane Street traffic light. We will leave at 1:00 PM for a 75 minute (46 mile) drive to west of Appalachia, VA. We should be finished hiking around 4:30 and expected to return to Gate City around 6 pm.

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## For the Record

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### **F/B: South Holston Spillway, Sunday, May 4, 2014**

*Barry Griggs reporting*

Our number was small due to a couple of last-minute cancellations, but the day was beautiful! We were blessed with a picture-perfect day for the very family-friendly trek to the South Holston Dam Spillway. The dogs seemed to be out to enjoy the day, also, as essentially every hiker we met was escorted by at least one dog, including us. This is an easy, relatively short hike which is very doable for beginners or anyone just interested in an enjoyable hike that won't take all afternoon. The view of the lake and mountains at the end of our hike was very peaceful. A few wildflowers were even spotted along the way. Hikers were Sharon Burnette and Barry Griggs.



P.S. For those desiring a little more hiking in this area, you can stop at the large parking/picnic area at Osceola Island on the road to the dam. This is a very nice area to trout fish and picnic. There is also a 1.5-mile trail around the perimeter of the island which can be accessed by crossing the footbridge. The trail is covered with fine gravel making for comfortable walking.

### **F/B: Rock Creek Falls, Sunday, June 1, 2014**

*Brien Lewis reporting*

The Rock Creek Falls hike on June 1<sup>st</sup> was quite successful. We departed from Colonial Heights about 1:15 and had a very pleasant drive to the trail head at Rock Creek Recreation Area in Erwin, TN. The recreation area was bustling with summer picnics and family get-togethers. The hike was about 3 miles round trip and took about 2.5 hours not including our rest time. The weather was mid 70's and blue skies. Perfect!

The hike took us along a beautiful creek with a handful of easy stream crosses that allowed us the opportunity to stop and listen to the water and enjoy the scenery. The trail dead ends at the main falls, which was flowing quite well. We enjoyed a rest at the falls before heading back down to the trail head. Upon completion of the trail, we stopped by the Rock Creek Recreation swimming hole, which is created by damming the creek that flows from the water fall. A local told us the pool had just been filled the previous weekend on Memorial day. There were lots of kids playing and it looked really invited to go for a swim. Maybe next time.

The hikers were Brien Lewis, Kamil Toga, and the lady named Deb whose last name I have misplaced. Sorry Deb! It was nice to meet you and I hope you join us again!

### **F/B: Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge, Sunday, June 29, 2014**

*Mike Watts reporting*

While the weather forecast included a threat of storms, we decided to take our chances and proceeded to the Roan highlands. Conditions were cloudy but dry when we started. While there was a cloud ceiling, we enjoyed nice views from both Round Bald and Jane Bald. But continuing towards Grassy Ridge, the weather finally caught up with us. Due to a steady and unrelenting rain and zero visibility, we finally abandoned our planned destination. En route back to Carvers Gap, the rain spigot was finally cut off and we enjoyed the remainder of the hike. The hikers on this outing, who were slightly soggy but not damp in spirit, included Steve Ankabrandt, Serita Blankenbecler, Gerald Scott, and Mike Watts. *(Photos by Steve Ankabrandt)*



Impending Storm



Four Wet Hikers

## **F/B: Laurel Falls from Dennis Cove, Sunday, July 6, 2014**

*Barry Griggs reporting*

We were blessed with a very comfortable Sunday afternoon for our 2.6-mile round-trip hike to Laurel Falls. This is a very family-friendly hike with the only somewhat challenging part being the actual walk down and back from the waterfall. This path is made of large stepping stones, some of which are easier to navigate than others. But with reasonable care the route is well worth the reward.

There was a decent amount of flow over the falls, but the water level was lower than I had seen it before. Lydia and Paul enjoyed cooling their heels in the creek and several other hikers at the falls were swimming. Extreme care should be taken in the water below the falls since a father and son tragically lost their lives here in July 2012. There is a small plaque in their memory attached to a rock at the bottom of the steps. Probably the most excitement today came from watching some swimmers (not part of our group) try to capture/kill(?) a small water snake of some kind. We weren't close enough to tell what kind it was, but they were approaching it like it was a man-eating python. The snake eventually made its escape swimming on down the creek. Our hiking group consisted of Chris Garrett, Patti Garrett, Lydia Garrett, Paul Garrett, Leticia Brock, Beverly Griggs and Barry Griggs.



Swimmers at Lauryl Fork Falls – Be careful!



Sunday afternoon hikers

## **Rocky Fork White House Cliffs, July 13**

*Tim McClain reporting*

The first thing we saw when arriving at the Rocky Fork parking area was a whole lot of cars - a rare sight for this area! The second thing we saw, and the explanation for all the parked cars, was a church group gathered at the creek bank for a baptism surrounded by some of the prettiest scenery for many miles. After finding our own parking spots, five of us made the relatively short but steep trek to the top of the first high point inside Tennessee's newest State Park. The weather was hot and muggy, but rhododendrons were still blooming in the shady forest. A branch trail, which is on the right about 1/2 mile up the main trail from the parking area, leads up the White House Cliffs. The route has some flags marking the way, but it is by no means a well-established trail. Vic Hasler turned this hike into somewhat of a work trip too as he brought clippers and a GPS to get the trail route recorded in his GPS (to be posted on our Trail Wiki). Vic also was able to locate 3 or 4 geocaches along the trail. Hikers were: Vic Hasler, William Werner, Jianhui Zhou, Xiaofang Dong, and Tim McClain. This hike would also be a great fall color hike as the destination provides a very rewarding 360 degree view from the top (approximately 3300-ft elevation).



Left to Right: William Werner, Jianhui Zhou, Xiaofang Dong, Vic Hasler



Fresh bear tracks!

## FunFest Moonlight Hike, Thursday, July 17

*Vic Hasler reporting*

Excellent was the evening – dry, mostly clear, and comfortable in the low 70s – for a walk in the fading twilight around the lake at Bays Mountain Park. While the moon itself did not rise until 12:25 am, sightings were reported for beavers crossing the water and a pair of bobble-head owls. The total number of participants (227) was significantly down, by design, as the event issued 300 free tickets to control the number of cars to fit the limited parking spaces available. While the volunteers arrived early at 6:30 pm to carpool (likely can push back to 7 pm in future), the small headcount allowed the 8 pm hike to be done by 10 pm. Thanks goes out to a great group of TEHCC volunteers who also enjoyed the pleasant night hike: Steve Perri, Tim and Peggy McClain, Janet Lounds, Glenda O’Neal, Mark and Jake Selby, Vic and Clark Hasler, Brent Tennant, Jon Penney, Gerald Scott, Leticia Brock, Seth Fortune, Mike, Billy, and Joey Carrier, and Rodney Russell.



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

Cancelled due to heavy rain. SAHC likewise cancelled a weekend event for mowing the balds on Roan. Will try again in the Fall.



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## A.T. Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 6/25/2014

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Lynn DiFiore, Harold Stinette

**Summary:** We picked up a small amount of trash at Overmountain, Stan Murray, and Bradley Gap campsites. We also dispersed a new fire ring that was built in Bradley Gap. We cleaned waterbars on the blue-blaze up from the barn and lopped branches along the blue-blaze to the spring. Note: a Jeep truck was apparently abandoned at Doll Flats after driving a ways trail south on the A.T. I notified the Ridgerunner and USFS in NC.



**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 6/28/2014

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Lynn DiFiore, Brian Schloff

**Summary:** We cut weeds and briars from Overmountain to top of Big Hump, cleaned waterbars, and touched up blazes. We saw many day hikers and backpackers. A first - no trash in the barn!

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 6/30/2014

**Purpose:** Summer maintenance

**Location:** Section 17, One-half mile south of Iron Mountain Gap to FS 230 switchback

**People:** Andrew Cleland, Wayne Jones, David Douthit, Jerry Jones, John Parks, Daryl Loyd, David Polon, Eric Middlemas, Judy Middlemas, Dave McMillin, Lana Scott, Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We mowed the trail from about 0.5 mile south of Iron Mountain Gap to FS230 switchback. We also lopped, removed limbs from the trail, picked up trash, and cleaned around Cherry Gap Shelter.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 6/30/2014

**Purpose:** Clear undergrowth

**Location:** Section 20a, North end of section, Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap

**People:** Craig Haire

**Summary:** Brushy undergrowth encroaching on the trail was cut back between the first and second switchbacks (from the 1995 relo). Also the trail sign was installed at the north end, near the road.

**Reporting:** Scotty Bowman

**Date:** 7/1/2014

**Purpose:** Brush and remove trees

**Location:** Section 6, Iron Mountain Shelter to Vandeventer Shelter

**People:** Scotty Bowman, Mike Appleby

**Summary:** We started at Iron Mountain Shelter and worked our way to Vandeventer Shelter, brushing out a 5-mile section over a 3-day period. We also removed three trees from trail, removed two fire rings and picked up trash from three dispersed sites (about 8 lbs).

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 7/1/2014

**Purpose:** Give recruitment presentation

**Location:** Cumberland Presbyterian

**People:** Joe Morris, Robin Dean

**Summary:** A presentation was given to the Greeneville Exchange Club for recruitment. Dr. Katherine Stone from Tusculum College was my special guest. She is very interested in building a relationship between TEHCC and the college.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 7/1/2014

**Purpose:** Cut annual growth and weeds

**Location:** Section 8, US321 to Oliver Hollow Road

**People:** Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Becky Kinder, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Mike Price, Gayle Riddervold, Kevin Sedgwick, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We spent the majority of the time cutting back privet and multiflora rose. We cut out several minor blowdowns entangled with all the annual growth. We removed a limb from an oak that was being used for a rope swing at the edge of the lake. We checked for some potential campsites just south of US321.

**Reporting:** Brenna Irrer

**Date:** 7/1 to 7/9/2014

**Purpose:** Work on the reroute at Turkey Pen Gap

**Location:** Section 6, Turkey Pen Gap

**People:** Lida Wise, James Lautzenheiser, Eliza Duvall, Emily Patton, Woohee Rim

**Summary:** We built 920 feet of new trail and installed 6 water bars on the old section of trail. We completed, blazed, and opened the upper section of the reroute. There is 40 feet (20 feet on each end) to be completed on the lower section.

**Reporting:** Gayle Riddervold

**Date:** 7/2/2014

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 13, US19E to Doll Flats

**People:** Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

**Summary:** Today we hiked in about a mile, checked on water bars, cut stinging nettle, and took care of a small blowdown that was sticking out into the trail. About 3/4 of a mile in there is some erosion at the edge of the trail from a huge tree that had been uprooted some time ago. We threw in some ground, sticks, and stones to fill in some of the erosion. Becky spotted a downed locust tree that we will use as a side support. We will come back soon with a small shovel to further fill in the hole and will use the locust as a pole for support. We saw a lot of hikers today and a group of about 25 kids hiking the A.T. On the way back, across the stream where the Apple House once stood, we heard vehicles coming through the forest. They identified themselves as part of the Forestry Department and they were there to clear some trees.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 7/3/2014

**Purpose:** Clear trailside undergrowth

**Location:** Section 20a, North end of section, Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap

**People:** Craig Haire

**Summary:** Woody, bushy undergrowth encroaching on the trail was cleared back on the second switchback (from the 1995 relocation).

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 7/3/2014

**Purpose:** Dig relocation

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

**People:** John Beaudet, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Mike Price, George Thorpe

**Summary:** In the morning when we were almost to Little Rock Knob, we ran into a major blowdown that completely blocked the trail. A large top had broken out of a beech tree and had obliterated the trail. Fortunately, we had hand saws, loppers and lots of hands to remove the blockage. We finished polishing the new relocation at Little Rock Knob. We also cut the rhodos back on upper side of trail. George cut the rhodos back on upper side of trail about two-thirds of the way to Little Rock Knob.

**Reporting:** Gayle Riddervold

**Date:** 7/3/2014

**Purpose:** Fix an erosion problem

**Location:** Section 13, US19E to Doll Flats

**People:** Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

**Summary:** We went up the trail with a small shovel and two locust posts from an old barn we once had, to fix an erosion problem that we started working on the other day. We found some nice flat rocks and I dug up dirt from a hill to fill in the hole while Becky made a log crib wall out of locust logs.

**Reporting:** Bob Peoples

**Date:** 7/4/2014

**Purpose:** Lop rhododendron

**Location:** Section 10, Southern end of section, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

**People:** Bob Peoples

**Summary:** Bob cut back rhodos from Dennis Cove to Koonford Bridge. He saw about 50 people out enjoying the Fourth.

**Reporting:** Bob Peoples

**Date:** 7/4/2014

**Purpose:** Retrieve Rock Bar

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

**People:** Mike Price

**Summary:** A hiker had reported that there was a rock bar near Ash Gap. We obviously left it during Hard Core. Mike took a hike to Ash Gap and retrieved it.

**Reporting:** Phyllis Cairnes

**Date:** 7/5/2014

**Purpose:** Maintain shelter

**Location:** Section 2b, Abingdon Gap Shelter

**People:** Phyllis Cairnes, Rolla Wade, Kim Peters

**Summary:** On our beautifully sunny, delightfully cool for July day, we hiked in from Low Gap to Abingdon Gap shelter. There we replaced the journal, cleaned the Snickers wrappers out of the gutter, picked up trash, swept, checked the downhill water source

(flowing adequately from the pipe), and shoveled out the fire ring. Kim said future planning should perhaps involve re-painting the interior, fixing a small persistent roof leak, and maybe replacing the bent guttering.

**Reporting:** John Robbins

**Date:** 7/5/2014

**Purpose:** General maintenance

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

**People:** John Robbins, Joanne Robbins

**Summary:** We walked the trail, pruning limbs and briars. We removed four small blowdowns which were across the trail, broke up a fire ring and collected trash at the ring and along 421. The trail is in good condition.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 7/8/2014

**Purpose:** Clear undergrowth

**Location:** Section 20a, North end of section, Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap

**People:** Craig Haire

**Summary:** Brushy overgrowth encroaching on the trail (rhododendron, pine saplings, mountain laurel, etc.) was cut back on part of switchback #3 with a blade attachment on a string trimmer.

**Reporting:** Pat Loven

**Date:** 7/10/2014

**Purpose:** Trail maintenance

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

**People:** Pat Loven

**Summary:** I walked the entire section to check and/or clear trail as needed. I found a large fallen tree completely blocking the trail on the upper part of the creek section. Hikers had been taking a 25' detour and still were having to climb across the trunk. After hand sawing for quite some time, I was able to get the trail cleared. I lopped rhododendron and briars on the remainder of the trail; also encountered a large run of nettle that was encroaching the trail from both sides. I was able to clear most of it swinging a small cutter mattock (didn't have a swing blade). All the new relocations look very good, as well as the rest of this section.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 7/11/2014

**Purpose:** Check potential campsites

**Location:** Section 9a, US321 to kiosk

**People:** Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Mike Price

**Summary:** We looked for a temporary camping area to be used while the bear closure around the west end of Watauga Lake is active. It seemed like the best place was just trail north from kiosk at wilderness boundary.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 7/11/2014

**Purpose:** Mow and trim weeds at Overmountain Shelter

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed and trimmed weeds at the tenting area at Overmountain Shelter. We also trimmed weeds off the trail to the privy and to the water source, and removed rocks from the camping area. Water availability is very good. Policing of the shelter is outstanding. We met two local hikers who seemed interested in helping on the trail and gave them cards. There are still a lot of heavily used trails into the woods even at the water source. The route to the privy is well marked.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 7/11/2014

**Purpose:** Mow and trim weeds along the trail

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed and trimmed weeds at the trail across the Osborne Farm as needed, and restacked the stone cairns. There had been a very hard rain that damaged the trail about halfway south of the farm house location. Cattle have been out but have done minimum damage. Rueben did an outstanding job spraying the trail.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 7/13/2014

**Purpose:** Clear trailside undergrowth

**Location:** Section 20a, North end of section, Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap

**People:** Craig Haire

**Summary:** I fine-tuned the weed trimming on switchbacks 1 and 2 and cut back more of the rhodos and pine saplings encroaching on the trail on switchback 3; this time with a lopper.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 7/13/2014

**Purpose:** Mark trail

**Location:** Section 14b, Little Hump Mountain

**People:** Lynn DiFiore, Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We salvaged and repurposed some old wood fence posts on the Trail south end of Little Hump for marking the Trail across the bald. We were able to collect all posts needed for the mountain and install and blaze them along the most recent location Trail north of the Little Hump summit, and one in the woods on the Trail south side. Joe is in possession of the metal posts that we hauled out. One more trip will be needed to complete the Trail south side.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 7/16/2014

**Purpose:** Prepare for ASU trip

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

**People:** Ed Oliver, Ted Mowrey, Daryl Anderson, Kim Peters, George Thorpe, Ken Buchanan, Mike Tuttle, Paul Benfield, Bob Peoples, Mike Price

**Summary:** The rock steps leading up from the parking area were repaired and stabilized by resetting rocks using mortar. The lower relo to be worked on by the ASU students was cut out and pin flags set. Pin flags were also put out for four sections on the next relo up the hill. The relo we opened recently was also re-worked by removing many of the rocks on the lower edge of the trail. Most of these had already been moved, presumably by bears, but the bears had left them in the middle of the trail. A few blowdowns were also removed on this section. Someone had removed the limbs that we used to brush in the old trail, so we also brushed in the old trail. It was a beautiful day to be out in the woods.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 7/16/2014

**Purpose:** Summer Maintenance

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap south 0.5 Miles

**People:** Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We mowed about one-half mile south of Iron Mountain Gap, lopped small branches, nailed stakes to log steps, and picked up trash.

**Reporting:** Gayle Riddervold

**Date:** 7/17/2014

**Purpose:** Routine Maintenance

**Location:** Section 13, US19E to Doll Flats

**People:** Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

**Summary:** We hiked about 2.25 miles up the trail cutting back thorny weeds, rhododendrons, and stinging nettle. We also removed two small trees hanging over the trail that had the potential to hit someone in the head. A section hiker reported that someone built a stone fire pit on top of Hump Mountain. He didn't think it was appropriate that fires should be started on the mountain and took it upon himself to disassemble it and create a bench instead.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 7/17/2014

**Purpose:** Apply herbicide

**Location:** Section 12d, Bishop Hollow

**People:** Jim Chambers, Mike "Lumpy" Price

**Summary:** Lumpy and I participated in a joint venture with the ATC and Forest Service in order to apply herbicide to invasive plant species in Bishop Hollow to improve the Golden Winged Warbler habitat.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 7/19/2014

**Purpose:** Radio interview

**Location:** Bristol, VA

**People:** Steve Perri

**Summary:** I was invited by George Grant to participate in his live Outdoor Radio Show. We did a live radio interview covering TEHCC, our outdoor activities, and ATC partnership involvement. I enjoyed the show and it was a good way to spend a rainy morning.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 7/21/2014

**Purpose:** Clear trailside undergrowth

**Location:** Section 20a, North end of section, Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap

**People:** Craig Haire

**Summary:** I completed the clearing of switchback #3 and the gap between switchbacks 3 and 4. Three backpackers passed by and thanked me for my work.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 7/21/2014

**Purpose:** Finish summer maintenance

**Location:** Section 16b, Greasy Creek Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

**People:** Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We mowed and lopped from Greasy Creek Gap to Weedy Gap for the first time this year; and mowed and lopped the Apple Orchard and small sections of the A.T. from Weedy Gap to Iron Mountain Gap for the second time this year. We also picked up trash along the trail and at the trail head.

**Reporting:** Pat Loven

**Date:** 7/22/2014

**Purpose:** Invasive vine control

**Location:** Section 11a, Canute Place field

**People:** Rhys Brydon-Williams, Ken Buchanan, Pat Loven

**Summary:** Ken and I accompanied Rhys Brydon-Williams of the ATC in Asheville, NC to Canute's field. We spent the day cutting invasive oriental bittersweet vine that was overtaking trees on the southern perimeter of the field. We felt confident at the end of the day that the project was completed for this growing season.

**Reporting:** Brian Paley

**Date:** 7/22/2014

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and check for blowdowns

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

**People:** Brian Paley

**Summary:** I went out to cut weeds around the corner of Watauga Lake and found that someone had recently cut back the multi-flora roses. So I just cleaned the trail up a bit.

**Reporting:** Scotty Bowman

**Date:** 7/24/2014

**Purpose:** Shelter clean up

**Location:** Section 7, Wilbur Dam Road to Vandeventer Shelter

**People:** Scotty Bowman

**Summary:** It was a misty and foggy morning when I hiked to Vandeventer Shelter from Wilbur Dam Road to bring a shelter journal, broom, and shovel. There was a chance of a thunderstorm that day, which held off until I got back to the car. Along the way in, I did some spot brushing with hand pruners and hand saw along the way. At about the 3.5 mile mark at the spring, I removed one fire ring. At the shelter, I picked up trash, cleaned out the fire ring and then went down to the water source. On the way down I cleaned up the dispersed camp site at about the halfway point. The spring was flowing pretty decent. As I headed back to Wilbur Dam Road, I did a little more spot brushing. There were three pieces of trees that were across the trail that I easily removed by hand and with a little bit of hand saw work. It was good day to be out.

**Reporting:** Gerald Scott

**Date:** 7/25/2014

**Purpose:** Summer maintenance

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

**People:** Gerald Scott

**Summary:** I cut weeds, lopped rhododendrons, removed blowdowns, removed trash at Mountaineer Falls shelter including an inflated river-floating tube and two tarps, and dug out the fire ring.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 7/26/2014

**Purpose:** Section maintenance

**Location:** Section 15a, Carvers Gap to just north of Roan High Knob Shelter

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** I cut briars and other annual growth from Carvers Gap to about 300 yards past Roan High Knob Shelter, to a site of endangered plants. The briars were healthy but not terribly profuse. I placed a new shelter register in a plastic box. Only issue noted in old register was bad trash between my first trip in April and the second in late May, with Ridgerunner's arrival then as well. Very little trash this time.