



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

September 2014

tehcc.org

In this Issue

[From the Chair](#)

[50 Years of Wilderness Act Rallies](#)

[Leave No Trace Trainer Course](#)

[Fall Dinner Meeting](#)

[Trading Post Club Patch and Shirt](#)

[2014-2015 Deer Hunting Seasons](#)

[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

Love hiking/paddling? Do you wonder what you could do to be more involved to promote these activities in our community? I would like to invite you to consider joining the TEHCC Steering Committee, which oversees the recreational aspects of the club. Duties include planning the two dinner meetings, encouraging hiking and paddling events, and managing the set of rental gear. Monthly discussions are held to cover the club business. Being part of Eastman Recreation, seats on the committee are open to current and retired Eastman employees only. If you are interested, please contact me at Chair@tehcc.org for questions or more discussion. We try to keep the committee fairly small and only have a few spots to fill, but would love to have your involvement if interested.

50 Years of Wilderness Act Rallies – September 6, 2014

Vic Hasler reporting

Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS) and the US Forest Service are jointly hosting two events on Saturday, September 6th, at Watauga Point Recreation Area (Hampton, TN). From 9 am to 4 pm, small groups will tackle a variety of projects on trails around Watauga Lake. Then from 4 to 7 pm, a cookout celebration will be held with crosscut saw demonstrations, storytelling, branding, and music. (Cost is \$2/vehicle.) More information is provided in the two flyers available on the TEHCC website.



Leave No Trace Trainer Course – September 12-14, 2014

Brien Lewis reporting

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 for additional information on the event and 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](#)

Fall Dinner Meeting – Friday, October 3, 2014

After being in the outdoors, whether hiking, paddling, or maintaining, it's great to enjoy a meal together with friends while telling about your adventures. The Fall Dinner will again be held at the Eastman Lodge.

Ed Montgomery will be speaking about a recent trip on the "River of No Return," which was made famous in a 1954 Western movie 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.

Event	Time	Details
Fall Dinner Meeting	5:30pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
Happy "Trails" Hour	5:30pm-6:30pm	Donations accepted for beer and wine, or BYOB
Dinner: Kabob skewers, Baked potato bar, Salad bar, Rolls, Cobbler, Tea/Coffee	6:30pm-7:15pm	Catered by Sugar & Spice Catering (\$13 per adult, \$6.50 per student)
Club Business	7:15pm-8:00pm	Update of club activities
Special Program: River of No Return	8:00pm-9:00pm	Ed Montgomery

There is no charge for attending the program only, but if you would like to eat, please submit your reservation by end of Friday, September 26th. A reservation form is located at the end of this newsletter or click [here](#) for a printable copy.

Trading Post: Club Patch and Shirt

Club shirt orders are now being taken through the fall dinner meeting. This information is also on the [club website](#) under the Membership drop-down tab. For best service, alert Steve Ankabrandt to an order by e-mail to tradingpost@tehcc.org; provide upfront payment in either cash or check made out to TEHCC at Building 310 Recreation Office.

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, or 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

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

2014-2015 Deer Hunting Seasons

Vic Hasler reporting - information also available on the [trail wiki](#)

Many of our local trails pass through national forests where hunting is permitted. For example, hunting is allowed along the Appalachian Trail within national forests and it is lawful to hunt from the Trail itself. Deer hunting is popular in the local mountains and during firearms seasons can pose a greater risk to hikers than bow hunting or hunting for other smaller prey. The upcoming deer hunting seasons in our area are as follows:

East Tennessee (Sunday hunting permitted)

Muzzleloader: November 8 – January 4

Gun: November 22 – January 4

Youth: October 25-26, January 10-11

Southwest Virginia (Sunday hunting prohibited – except on private property by owner or written permission)

Muzzleloader: November 1-14 and December 13 – January 3

Gun: November 15 – 29

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

Blackpowder: September 30 – October 12

Gun: November 22 – January 1

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

Blackpowder: September 29- October 11

Gun: November 24 – December 13

Hikers should note the prohibitions on Sunday hunting in Virginia and North Carolina. Safer hike locations during this time period would be national park lands such as the Great Smoky Mountains, Blue Ridge Parkway, and Cumberland Gap; state parks such as Warrior’s Path, Roan Mountain, and Breaks Interstate; and city parks such as Bays and Buffalo Mountain. Many of these parks border land where hunting is permitted and the boundaries are not always evident – with Hampton Creek Cove Natural Area and Buffalo Mountain Park being good examples. Some Virginia state parks, including Grayson Highlands, Natural Tunnel, and Hungry Mother, allow some hunting. Hikers wishing to visit those parks in the fall are encouraged to contact the park offices.

During hunting season, hikers are urged to wear blaze orange. Packs often cover a hiker’s back, so a cap and orange ribbons tied to the pack in addition to an orange jacket or vest are encouraged. If you bring your dog, it should wear orange too. Hiking groups tend to cause more commotion than a lone hiker and hiking with others is strongly encouraged in areas where hunting is permitted. Be especially careful the first few days of the season.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Evan Dirube

Katie Ferguson

Laura Karnes

James Floyd

Betsy Biller

Toby Briggs

Lowell Biller

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Sept 6	50 Years of Wilderness Act Rallies	SAWS	
Sept 19	F/B: Wild Ponies at Grayson Highlands SP	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854 or 423-956-1822
Sept 20	3 rd Saturday Hiking with Tools	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
Sept 21	F/B: Lake Keokee Loop Trail	Terry Dougherty	423-502-5177
Sept 27	F/B: Family Hiking Day on the A.T.: Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
Sept 28	F/B: Tweetsie Trail	Barry Griggs	423-239-5676 or 423-863-4590
Oct 3	Fall Dinner Meeting		
Oct 11	Fall Color Hike – Comers Creek Falls Loop	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263

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. At the discretion of the hike leader, 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, 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 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: 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

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 and paddle to "Boone Docks Restaurant" located at Boone Lake Marina in Piney Flats for dinner and a social hour then paddle back. But be sure to check with Debbie; last paddle for the season may be September 4th.

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, 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: Wild Ponies at [Grayson Highlands SP](#) – Friday, September 19, 2014

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

Rating: Easy 4-5 mile loop

Seeing the wild ponies at Grayson Highlands is on the "bucket list" of the Billy Luttrell family (Garry's son) before they leave on their missionary work in St Maarten. This Friday date is best for Billy and Joy and their seven kids, so they welcome club members to join

them. The hike will start at Massie Gap, following the A.T. spur up to Wilburn Ridge. (If it's windy and dangerous for small kids, the open spots will be avoided.) Lunch will be at Rhododendron Gap. Then we will return by the horse trails and A.T. back to Massie Gap. If there is time, an option would be to walk out to the shelter close to Mt Rogers. The mountain ash trees will hopefully be loaded with red berries and green leaves – providing a great background for photo shots. We'll leave Colonial Heights at 8:00 am, returning very late afternoon. Please contact the hike leader if interested so that the family will know to expect you.

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 wildflower viewing. The boat launch has picnic shelters – and bathrooms. Dogs are allowed on a leash. The group meeting place for this hike will be Gate 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 expect to return to Gate City around 6 pm.

F/B: Carvers Gap to [Grassy Ridge](#) – Saturday, September 27, 2014

Family Hiking Day on the A.T.

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

Rating: Easy-to-moderate 4.0 miles round trip

This Saturday event is planned to participate in ATC's [Family Hiking Day](#). A favorite club hike is the Roan Balds. From the parking area at Carvers Gap, we'll follow the gravel, white-blazed A.T. northbound over Round Bald, through Engine Gap, then over Jane Bald. The blue-blazed spur trail will take us up to Grassy Ridge for the view and lunch. We'll leave Colonial Heights at 9 am to meet at the trailhead around 10:30 am. Bring water, lunch, hiking boots or good walking shoes, and layered clothing appropriate for the weather.

F/B: [Tweetsie Trail](#) – Sunday, September 28, 2014

Leader: [Barry Griqqs](#), 423-239-5676 or 423-863-4590

Rating: Easy rails-to-trails conversion, thus out-and-back

The first 4.5-mile section opened at the end of August, thus ready for exploration. We'll travel to the trailhead at Lions Field ballpark in Elizabethton, and then walk toward Johnson City to see as much of the new trail as the group desires. Bridges have been repaired so some views are anticipated. Being a flat tread, young children are welcomed to bring bicycles with appropriate headgear. Hikers can either meet at 1:30 pm in Colonial Heights to carpool or at the Lions Field parking lot by 2 pm. Let the leader know in advance where to expect you.

Fall Color Hike – Comers Creek Falls Loop, Saturday, October 11, 2014

Leader: Joe DeLoach, 423-753-7263

Rating: Moderate 9.5 miles

The Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area (MRNRA) is a great place to visit anytime, and one of the best times is in the fall with the sugar and red maples and other trees displaying beautiful foliage. One of the best things about the MRNRA is the high number of trails and the many loop hikes that can be arranged, and our 2014 Fall Color Hike will utilize one such loop. In Johnny Molloy's [Mount Rogers Outdoor Recreation Handbook](#) this is described as the Comers Creek Falls Loop and though we're not doing exactly the loop the book describes, we'll call it that too. The loop starts with the Dickey Gap Trail at Hurricane Campground, which leads 0.5 miles to the Appalachian Trail. From there we head south on the A.T. for a little over 3 miles to the nice Hurricane Mountain Shelter, and another mile to Chestnut Flats and a junction with the Iron Mountain Trail and the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail at an elevation over 4300'. As the name implies, these are horse trails and thus are rockier than the A.T., but the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail diverges after 0.2 miles. Horse use diminishes from that point, and after another 1.4 miles the Iron Mtn Trail becomes foot travel only. Within a mile after leaving the A.T. is the first of many meadows that offers great views south to Mt. Rogers and the main ridge of the Grayson Highlands. The Iron Mtn Trail alternates between woods and pastures for another two miles to a junction with the Comers Creek Falls Trail, which leads 0.4 miles back to the A.T. From that point it is 0.2 miles to Comers Creek Falls, a favorite place for A.T. thru-hikers to take a dip. We then return on the A.T. for not quite a mile to the Dickey Gap Trail and back to Hurricane Campground, for a total hike using four trails of around 9.5 miles. The drive is about an hour and a half from Kingsport, so let's depart from the parking lot between McDonald's and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights at 8:00 am. Bring lunch, water, clothes including raingear that are suitable for changeable fall weather – and a camera! Please contact Joe in advance for any questions or to sign up for the hike.

For the Record

The Wilderness Conservation Corps Crew at Turkey Pen Gap, July 1-9, 2014

Brenna Irrer, SAWS Outreach Coordinator, reporting

From July 1 through 9, the Wilderness Conservation Corps (WCC) crew worked on the Appalachian Trail re-route at Turkey Pen Gap, located between the Vandeventer and Iron Mountain shelters. Over the course of 9 days, the crew built 920 feet of new trail. They completed, blazed, and opened the upper section of the two-part reroute. Approximately 20 feet of trail on either end of the lower section remain to be built before the section can be blazed and opened. To encourage rehabilitation on the old trail, which was severely eroded, the crew built 6 waterbars to mitigate resource damage. During the summer, the crew completed stewardship projects in five Wilderness areas in the Cherokee and Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests. Crew members and leaders included Lida Wisa, Eliza Duvall, Woohee Rim, Emily Patton, and James Lautzenheiser.



The WCC crew is a seasonal crew program of the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS), a program of The Wilderness Society. The WCC program offers hands-on work experience and training for individuals with interest in conservation and public lands protection.

ATC Leadership Conference, August 8-10, 2014

Vic Hasler reporting

The ATC again gathered the trail maintaining clubs and other partnership organizations for the August 8-10 leadership conference at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. Its purpose was to develop and fortify volunteer leadership capacity by fostering communication and networking. (Great opportunity to be able to put faces and names with the roles.) The basics of the Appalachian Trail Foundation documents and cooperative management were outlined, which is good for those in club leadership for the first time – and as a refresher for others to ensure understanding.

The draft five-year Appalachian Trail Conservancy Strategic Plan was presented with five major components:

- Effective Stewardship
- Proactive Protection
- Engaged Partners
- Broader Relevancy
- Operational Excellence

encompassing 15 outcomes with underlying strategies. This document will have a short final comment period by the trail-maintaining clubs later in the year, and then will be formally issued. The information could be used for a club self-assessment similar to one provided by the Massachusetts A.T. Management Committee. Such an effort would help highlight the current strengths of the club, define the scope of our involvement with ATC outcomes, and provide an opportunity to shore up roles with training and succession planning.

Break-out sessions were attended for the trail project planning process (to understand what Carl and others have to do), risk management, and successful outcomes/volunteer engagement. The last discussion did not match my expectation as the topic ended up covering more about outreach. The dynamic evening program speaker was Audrey Peterman (board member of the National Parks Conservation Association) on “Bringing Diversity to the Appalachian Trail,” which reinforced the Broader Relevancy strategic goal. Sunday morning wrapped up with “The Future – Who will be using, enjoying and maintaining the A.T.?” by Antonio Solorio, Park Ranger/Youth Program Manager, NPS–Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Annual “Babes on the Waves” River Run, August 15-17, 2014

Debbie Briscoe reporting

For the “Babes on the Waves” River Run on the Pigeon River, we had 16 paddlers on the upper section and 27 paddlers on the lower section! We had a great Babes weekend at Joanns in the Smokies with good food and a good bunch of gals.



Purchase Ridge Trail – Natural Tunnel State Park, August 24, 2014

Barry Griggs reporting

The warm, sunny afternoon with a chance of thundershowers did not deter our feisty group of hikers. They weren't even too discouraged by the leader's difficulty in locating the planned starting point for the hike – a little whiny, but not discouraged. My wife, Beverly, and I met good friends, Lowell and Betsy Biller at Natural Tunnel State Park to hike the Purchase Ridge trail. The plan was to get on this trail in the campground, complete the loop at the end of this trail and return via the Cabin Trail and the campground road. The starting point proved to be a little hard to find, so it was decided to do the planned route in reverse. We walked up the road to the Cabin Trail and hiked to where it joined the Purchase Ridge Trail. Since we had already done some extra walking on the Gorge Ridge Trail to Lover's Leap Overlook and because of more whining from certain hikers, it was decided to omit the loop and head back to our originally planned starting point on the Purchase Ridge Trail. It was cooler after we actually got in the woods on the trail. The leader no longer feared a mutiny. But seriously, it was a fun afternoon with friends in a beautiful part of our region. Our total distance was about 3.5 miles, not much more than the 3.25 we had planned.

We discovered the planned starting point is actually off the right side of the road about 100 yards past the camp store. It is off the road several yards at the edge of the woods and there is no sign marking the trail by name. There is a sign showing all the trails, but it's easy to miss if driving down the road.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 7/28/2014

Purpose: A.T. Committee Meeting

Location: Kingsport, TN

People: Ted Mowery, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob People, Jim Chambers, Tim Stewart, Dave Dunham, Paul Benfield, Vic Hasler, Steve Perri

Summary: TEHCC completed two weeks with the Konnarock crew on the Little Rock Knob relo with one week in early July and one in late July. Club turnout was good on Saturdays with 10 people for both weeks; overall, 17 different club volunteers participated this year. The crew opened one section of the relo, and the club anticipates finishing the other section on August 19 with help from Wright State. Four weeks of crew time is planned for next year for Cross Mtn. The 2014 ASU Project is scheduled for August 15 for Backbone Rock blue-blaze trail. This is a Friday outing and getting enough club members to help is critical to doing this project safely.

Our Roan Highlands Ridgerunner, Fletcher Meadema, will wind down his final weeks in August. Key impacts he has focused on included: LNT education, rare plant awareness, and impacts of firewood gathering and fire rings. We will likely participate in a phone exit interview the second week of August to capture learnings. We discussed specific options for new signage for Carvers Gap and how to minimize visitor impacts. All agreed the current kiosk location is inadequate and outdated. Several ideas were mentioned to have info signs on the north side of Carvers Gap, perhaps at the fence or just past the fence railing on the left. Other locations suggested include the transition points between the woods and open area traveling north on Round Bald – as long as the info signs aren't a kiosk or bulletin board style. Twenty years ago there were signs on the balds to encourage visitors to stay on the trail to allow rehabbed areas to grow back in. Fire bans are a possible means to minimize foraging for wood, but might be difficult to enforce.

SAWS and the USFS are looking for help from TEHCC for events associated with the Wilderness Act's 50th Anniversary on Sept 6th, a Wilderness Rally near Watauga Lake. The schedule is: 9:00 am activities, 3:00 pm gathering at Watauga Point, 4:00 pm info tables for info rally, followed by dinner. We could offer assistance in leading hikes or with trail projects in or adjacent to the Wilderness areas. We have also been invited to set up an info table in the afternoon. Carl ID'd several potential projects (Bear Stand Trail rehab, rehab switchbacks south of Shook Branch, and possibly rehab near Laurel Fork Shelter). The committee supported participation by volunteers who would be available that day, along with the possibility of supplying tools.

Carl is organizing a small group to assess the Koonford Bridge pre-work and detailed plan/logistics for executing the project. We believe that the water level needs to come down still as we will be using the old central span as a temporary bridge while the primitive piers are reinforced and new stringers are brought in and installed over a couple of weeks of time. Moving/transporting the center span is also a concern due to its weight.

We discussed barriers for recruiting new and younger maintainers. The demographics of volunteers are skewed and our contact list of inactive existing members turned up very few volunteers willing to commit much time. We discussed the need to continue to recruit new volunteers via personal invitations for outings. Our 3rd-Saturday outings provide a good opportunity to link up suitable projects with potential new volunteers. Also, we could encourage new people to participate in general maintenance and shelter work planned for this fall. We also can update kiosks with contact info for people who might be interested in volunteering. Jim Chambers is planning a pilot Wounded Warriors project in October with a combination of hikes and possibly a project over a three-day period.

Shelter graffiti was a topic among the trail clubs at the RPC meeting earlier this year. We have also had a rash of graffiti at our shelters. Our shelters seem to be easy targets with our cinder block walls. We discussed the possibility of encouraging people to write in shelter logs rather than on the shelters. This is not an easy problem to solve and exists up and down the trail corridor.

We discussed the club's tenting areas with respect to handling larger numbers of hikers because of a potential increase in trail use due to the movie "A Walk in the Woods." GATC probably experiences this every year at the start of thru-hiker season. TEHCC does have some tenting capacity and other areas that could handle more overnights. Current designated areas include: No Business Knob Shelter camping sites, Cherry Gap camping sites, and Mountaineer Falls Shelter camping sites. We are working to add camp sites in Wildermine Hollow this year. Other areas that could handle more overnight camping, but not officially managed now as such, include: Beauty Spot or areas in the vicinity, Elk River, the Canute Place, Osborne Farm and the field south of Dennis Cove.

The A.T. around Watauga Lake Shelter (US 321 to Wilbur Dam Rd) remains closed. A bear with three cubs is believed to still be in the area, along with potentially other bears. Improved signage has helped increase awareness this year and specific USFS visitation at hostels has also helped in improve communication to visitors. We will continue to monitor the status into 2015.

General announcements:

- a. ATC Club President's Meeting – Vic Hasler is attending for TEHCC and steering committee is supporting travel expenses.
- b. Jim Chambers is attending training for certification of hazard tree removal in New England and Committee offered to support up to half the course registration cost.
- c. Pisgah National Forest Revision Plan is ongoing with meetings for different phases being announced.
- d. The ATC Strategic Plan is now in the final stages of development. Input provided by the Clubs is now being incorporated into the plan before the final draft is complete.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/29/2014

Purpose: Mow camping area at the barn

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the tenting area at the Overmountain Shelter and trimmed weeds along trails to the water and privy. Plenty of water is available, but there's not a large flow through the pipe.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/29/2014

Purpose: Mow Trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds at the trail across the Osborne Farm. Accessible trail will need another spraying sometime later this year.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/29/2014

Purpose: Rebuild Koonford Bridge

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Koonford Bridge

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Ted Mowery

Summary: We inspected the new bridge lumber and found it in excellent shape. We reviewed the job site and determined how we can install a temporary bridge from existing materials, how to get new materials in place, how to increase size of piers, and so forth. Tasks are becoming more obvious and could span as much as a month. The fun is yet to come.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 7/30/2014

Purpose: Check for blowdowns

Location: Section 13, US19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We hiked up about two miles to check the condition of the trail after the storm. All we saw were small limbs, which we picked up. We also picked up trash that was at the fire pit just down below the trail head.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/31/2014

Purpose: Add water diversions

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap, South of Clyde Smith Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Brain Paley, Kim Peters, Mike Price

Summary: We rehabbed about ten water diversions and added a couple new diversions plus a couple of steps. We primarily used locust to replace old rotting water bars. We made diversions wider and deeper than they were. We completed most of the critical work. Temperatures in lower 60s made it a great day to be in the mountains.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 7/31/2014

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 9b, Pond Mountain Wilderness

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I performed routine maintenance and removed a 12-inch blowdown about halfway up the southside of Pond Mtn.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield

Date: 8/2/2014

Purpose: Maintain Double Springs Shelter

Location: Section 4b, TN91 to Double Springs Shelter

People: Kim Peters, Terry Oldfield

Summary: Kim and I hiked to Double Springs Shelter. On the way, we trimmed weeds with clippers and hauled two downed trees off the trail. We noted that one of the new cairns on the Osborne Farm was laying on it's side; also there were 4 to 5 blowdowns along the trail that need to be cleared (pictures and location provided to Paul Benfield); 3 of them are step-overs. At the shelter, we picked up trash, cleaned the gutter, and replaced the log book. The shelter needs a new broom. On the way back, we clipped a few more weeds and Kim cleaned out a few waterbars using hiking boot heels.



Reporting: John Robbins

Date: 8/2/2014

Purpose: General Maintenance

Location: Section 3b, US 421 to spring

People: John Robbins, Joanne Robbins

Summary: We did routine maintenance, cut back briars, removed two small blowdowns, and cleaned waterbars. The Trail is in good shape.

Reporting: Anna Hackler

Date: 8/3/2014

Purpose: Summer cleanup

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

People: Anna Hackler, Shane Hackler

Summary: We cleared weeds and picked up trash. A large tree had come down from last week's storm, but was too high to do anything with. We will have to see if it comes down farther, about 10 to 12 feet above trail. There were large amounts of trash from campers. The blazes all still look good and everyone loves the signs that were put up a few months ago.

Reporting: Ed Oliver

Date: 8/4/2014

Purpose: Plan Koonford Bridge project

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Koonford Bridge

People: Ed Oliver

Summary: Ed inspected the bridge piers to get more dimensions for the Koonford bridge rebuild. He also obtained cement and mortar which he mixed dry for Friday's outing.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 8/4/2014

Purpose: Clear undergrowth

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

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I cleared the brushy undergrowth encroaching into the trail (rhododendron, pine saplings, etc.) on the lower half of switchback #4 with weedwhacker blade attachment.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 8/4/2014

Purpose: Assess hazard tree

Location: Section 9b, Pond Mountain

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I hiked up the south side of Pond Mountain to assess a hazard tree that we plan to remove tomorrow. All pertinent information has been sent to Carl.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 8/5/2014

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and brush

Location: Section 4b, From TN 91 to within half mile of Double Springs Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Mike Price

Summary: We cut about five blowdowns, lopped brush and cut a few weeds. Trail is in good shape.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 8/5/2014

Purpose: Remove blowdown

Location: Section 9b, south side of Pond Mountain

People: Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Mike Price

Summary: We successfully slid an old large blowdown down the mountain and off the trail. It had been cut previously but had slid across trail again. We rebuilt the trail with rocks.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 8/6/2014

Purpose: Paint blazes

Location: Section 18, FS230 switchback to Beauty Spot

People: Alexandra Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We painted north and south blazes from FS230 switchback to Beauty Spot Gap and a short section from the north side of Beauty Spot to the spring. We also painted blue blazes to Deep Gap Spring and Beauty Spot Spring. We lopped briars and low hanging limbs along these sections and removed trash at Beauty Spot.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 8/8/2014

Purpose: Work on Koonford Bridge

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Koonford Bridge

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Bill Fuller, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Kim Peters, Mike Price, George Thorpe

Summary: These dozen endured the rain to start Koonford Bridge replacement. We hauled in about 600 lbs of mortar and sand to be used on a drier day. We also hauled in 240 lbs of concrete and were able to use most of it at base of one pier. We installed part of a trail to a temporary bridge location about 40 feet downstream from the existing bridge. Much work remains.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 8/9/2014

Purpose: Fabricate Trail signs

Location: Kingsport

People: Steve Perri

Summary: I prepared wooden routed signs for section endpoints for Spivey Gap and TN/VA state line.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 8/9/2014

Purpose: Maintain section

Location: Section 20b, Devils Creek Gap to head of Oglesby Branch

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I parked at Flattop Mtn Road and first cleared weeds, brush, and blowdowns to Devils Creek Gap. Weeds were bad near the road; not so farther away. Hikers at Devils Creek Gap confirmed that the worst was between No Business Knob Shelter and Temple Hill Gap; problematic blowdowns and annual growth draped across Trail. Then I came back south and worked to a saddle with a campsite at the head of Oglesby Branch, about 0.8 miles from the Spivey Highway crossing.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 8/10/2014

Purpose: 2014 ATC Leadership Conference

Location: Shepherdstown, WV

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: I participated in the August 8-10, 2014 ATC Leadership Conference for the trail maintaining clubs and other partnership organizations at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. A longer trip report appears in the "For the Record" section of this newsletter.

Reporting: Scotty Vandam

Date: 8/10/2014

Purpose: Check trail

Location: Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mountain Road

People: Scott Vandam

Summary: I checked the trail after a major storm blew through about a week ago. This section is clear of blowdowns and in good condition.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 8/12/2014

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 7, From Wilbur Dam Rd to about one mile north

People: Ed Oliver, Kim Peters

Summary: There were two blowdowns reported on this section, so we set off on a misty rainy morning to clear them. We clipped brush at the trailhead to try and improve visibility at the road crossing. When the rain let up a little, we headed up the mountain lopping brush on the way out to the first blowdown. After clearing it, we continued lopping on out for about a mile. The rain never did quit, so we decided we would come back on another day.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 8/13/2014

Purpose: Fall Maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Campground to Double Springs Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We cleaned waterbars and installed four new waterbars. We cut a 12-inch blowdown and cut fall foliage and weeds between the campground and Double Springs Shelter. There is plenty of water at the campground and at the shelter.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 8/14/2014

Purpose: Cut down a fallen tree

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We walked three miles up to Doll Flats sawing down one small blowdown, cleaning rock steps, and clearing overhead branches that were cracked and ready to fall into the trail. We ran into Roman and his dog Duncan who were camping near the trail head. Things looked pretty good up at Doll Flats. We didn't find any trash up there and the blue-blazed water trail was clear as well. There was a minimum amount of trash where the Apple House use to be and we cleaned that up as well.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 8/14/2014

Purpose: Clear encroaching undergrowth

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

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I completed the clearing of switchback #4 with a brush cutter and started on the gap between switchbacks 4 and 5. On the way down I ran into George Osborne of Erwin, who said he knew some people in TEHCC.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 8/14/2014

Purpose: Paint Blazes

Location: Section 18, Beauty Spot Gap to Beauty Spot Spring

People: Alexandra Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We painted blazes from Beauty Spot Gap to Beauty Spot Spring. We lopped low and overhanging branches, cleaned up around a fallen tree, and relocated about 15 feet of trail to bypass the tree that had fallen directly on the trail.

Reporting: Ed Oliver

Date: 8/15/2014

Purpose: Work on Koonford Bridge

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Koonford Bridge

People: Ed Oliver

Summary: Ed mortared some rock to the southern pier to enlarge the pier. He was able to get about 22 inches high. More mortar, rock and concrete to follow.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 8/16/2014

Purpose: Cut weeds

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

People: Steve Perri, Tisha Perri

Summary: I checked with the USFS and learned that the weeds at Elk River were cut July 1. Since it had been 6 weeks, I decided to cut the path again from where the A.T. comes off the bluff and out of the woods along the Elk River to Sugar Hollow Creek. The weeds were about knee high. The edges were more like 6-foot high. This trip was made easy with a string trimmer and loppers, after access from the Elk Falls USFS gate.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 8/16/2014

Purpose: Maintain section, install post

Location: Section 14b, Yellow Mountain Gap to Little Hump

People: Joe DeLoach, Lynn DiFiore, Lyndsey Smith

Summary: We completed the installation of locust posts to mark the Trail across Little Hump. We clipped some blackberries and woody growth and tossed out downed limbs along the way. There were lots of people out on a nice day.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 8/16/2014

Purpose: Clear weeds, paint blazes

Location: Section 15b, Cloudland Hotel to Hughes Gap

People: Garry Luttrell, Kristin Porter, Christopher Best, Randy Waymire, Robert Byrd, Kim Peters

Summary: For this 3rd-Saturday Hiking-with-Tools trip, we set out to clear the weeds from the Cloudland Hotel Site down to Hughes Gap. It was a beautiful day to be out in the woods. Garry, Bob, Kristin and Chris started at Hughes Gap working their way uphill through the thickest part of the weeds, while Randy and Kim started at Cloudland and worked their way down. It was sunny and a pleasant 55 degrees when we started from Cloudland. In addition to cutting weeds and annual growth, we refreshed the white blazes and painted the blue blazes to the water source at Ash Gap. Garry said the weeds were bad, but not the worst he has ever seen. We met the students from Wright State hiking up toward Roan High Knob Shelter. They were very appreciative of our weed cutting efforts. This section of trail is now in good shape.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: 08/18/2014

Purpose: Dig relocation

Location: Section 16a, South of Little Rock Knob

People: Jim Chambers, Peter King, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Mike Price, Tim Stewart; Wright State: Cody Sparkman, Sydney Woelfel, Jeff Gedina, Trisha Kretzer, Marina Honkala, Samantha Conner, Truong Nguyen, Emily Balon, Craig Rainby, Greg Gamon, Erin Levine, Ashley Varner, Shelby Bussard, James Wright, Derek Moinger

Summary: Everyone worked on a relocation about 2.5 miles south of Hughes Gap. The group built 330 feet of new trail beginning where Konnarock Crew ended. We mainly built sidehill trail, removed trees and carried cut locust logs about 0.3 miles to job site. The students were outstanding.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 8/18/2014

Purpose: Clear undergrowth

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

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I finished clearing the woody undergrowth encroaching on the trail in the gap between switchbacks 4 and 5 and cleared the lower half of switchback #5.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 8/19/2014

Purpose: Review with Roan Ridgerunner

Location: Appalachian Ranger District Office, Mars Hill, NC

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: The season of Roan Ridgerunner Fletcher Meadema was reviewed with Appalachian District Ranger Matthew McCombs, Watauga District Natural Resources Management Team Leader Alice Cohen, Appalachian Trail Conservancy Resource Management Coordinator John Odell, and Joe who was the primary TEHCC interface with Fletcher. Fletcher relayed that backpackers, overnights and weekenders more so, rather than long distance hikers, had the most impact on the Roan Highlands with trash and campfires. Although his reports highlighted negative interactions, Fletcher stated that the majority of visitors were receptive to his message; although, he was hampered by not having printed messaging, for example in the form of a sign at Carvers Gap providing Forest Service guidance. Thus some people thought he was making things up. Very few visitors look at the existing kiosk in Carvers Gap, which was placed many years ago when the Trail went by it and more people parked near there instead of along the highway. A couple of modifications to the ridgerunner duties were suggested, including cutting back the field time to weekends only instead starting on Thursday. Another suggestion was to incorporate more stewardship duties on the slower days, such as on Thursdays. These and other aspects of the Roan Ridgerunner program would be good to consider at the Fall ATC/USFS/TEHCC Partnership meeting. Fletcher has had ridgerunner stints in Virginia and in the Smokies and said he had the best support from ATC and a club while on Roan. However it is a very different, and in many respects a more difficult assignment, so strong and consistent support will continue to be needed if the program continues.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 8/19/2014

Purpose: Repair of Koonford Bridge

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Koonford Bridge

People: Ed Oliver, Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, George Thorpe, Daryl Anderson, Jim Foster

Summary: We mortared about 18 inches of piers and poured about 28 inches of foundation. We removed all but two of the rocks from the trail in the cut just before Koonford Bridge and hauled concrete and other supplies to the bridge site.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 8/22/2014

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the camping area at Overmountain Shelter and trimmed weeds as needed. The shelter was very clean and the water is running good.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 8/22/2014

Purpose: Mow Accessible Trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds along the accessible trail. The trail needs to be sprayed very badly.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 8/23/2014

Purpose: Measure distance of trail relocations

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap Road to Clyde Smith Shelter

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: Two relocations have been opened in 2014 within this A.T. section. A 1625-foot switchback now replaces a steep 100-foot climb/drop at Little Rock Knob overlook. A 2300-foot sidehill route has been created in the section with Clyde Smith Shelter. A third relocation is underway between the other two, but could not be adequately measured. The trail distance from Little Rock Knob highpoint to the Clyde Smith Shelter sign has been increased by 0.2 mile versus the 2013 A.T. Data Book, thus is now 1.1 miles.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 8/23/2014

Purpose: Measure Trail distance

Location: Section 15b, Cloudland to Ash Gap

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: The final relocations, completed to address severe trail erosion between Cloudland Hotel and Ash Gap, were measured using the wheel. As in 2013, the trip was made after a week of rain, including a cloudburst early in the morning; so the trail design features of rock steps and many waterbars were observed to function very well. On the newer relocations completed this year, the residual black topsoil had not yet washed away and was not covered with leaf litter, so the dark mud coated my boots and legs. The steep washed-out ditch has now been replaced with multiple gradual switchbacks. The trail distance from Cloudland Hotel to Ash Gap was measured as 1.4 miles – which increased by 0.2 mile in 2013 and another 0.3 mile in 2014 versus the 14th Edition guidebook. Similar to Frank Oglesby’s memorable quote, “I’m now relocating my relocations!”, Carl Fritz stated to me in reference to this specific trail section, “And yes, that area is complete for my life time... I hope.”

Reporting: John Robbins

Date: 8/23/2014

Purpose: Clear invasive species

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

People: John Robbins, Dave Clark, Rhys Williams, Heather Waldroup

Summary: We cleared invasive species plants starting at Dennis Cove Road towards Canute. Trail is in good shape.

Reporting: John Beaudet

Date: 8/24/2014

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 19a and 19b, Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

People: John Beaudet, Frances Figart

Summary: Despite reports of blowdowns between Indian Grave Gap and Curly Maple Gap Shelter, none were found. However, continuing past the shelter, we found and removed four blowdowns between the shelter and the Nolichucky River. Hikers take caution: a belligerent, drugged shelter squatter was holed up at the Curly Maple Gap Shelter, and apparently had deliberately damaged the rock work around the recently installed culvert. He was obviously not a thru-hiker and not a desirable person to encounter on the trail. He seemed to be preparing to move up or down from this location.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 8/25/2014

Purpose: Check my section of trail

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

People: Jim Foster

Summary: I checked my section of trail and cleared one small blowdown while cleaning some waterbars and cleaning up around the shelter. There are two large blowdowns that will require a chain saw to remove. One is on the Little Rock Knob relo and the other is at the intersection of the unfinished relo and the trail on the south end. The finished relo and the water diversion work that was done a few weeks ago are outstanding. I want to thank those who helped on those projects; it will make my job of maintaining the trail a lot easier.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 08/25/2014

Purpose: Clear encroaching brushy undergrowth

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

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I completed clearing of switchback #5 and proceeded up toward Temple Hill Ridge.

Reporting: Bill Fuller

Date: 8/26/2014

Purpose: General Maintenance

Location: Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats

People: Bill Fuller, Campbell Fuller

Summary: We hiked about a third of the way up Pond Mountain to the first fire ring at the power-line. We cut back a lot of rhododendron and weeds along the way, and cleared four small step-over blowdowns crossing the trail and one larger blowdown.

**Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club
Fall Dinner Meeting
Friday, October 3rd, 2014**

Reservation Form

Fill out the form below and send it with a check payable to **Brien Lewis**.

Within Eastman send to:
Brien Lewis, B150B RM 120

Outside Eastman send to:
Brien Lewis
828 Sumpter Road
Kingsport, TN 37663

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

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Check and reservation form must be received by **Friday 9/26/2014**.

Names of all attending (*please print*)

Name(s): _____

Number of Meals: _____ x \$12.00 = \$ _____

Children age 13 and under _____ x \$ 6.00 = \$ _____

Number attending without meal reservation: _____