



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

October 2014

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

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## From the Chair

*Brien Lewis, Steering Committee Chair*

Fall is fast approaching and before you know it the leaves will be turning brilliant shades of yellow, orange, and red! The southern Appalachians boast the longest lasting and most varied fall color in the country due to the vast variety of trees found in the region. Compare this to regions in New England who have forests of only a few types of trees that all turn color at the same time during their short fall season. Both are a beautiful sight to see, so don't miss out on a scenic fall hike (or two) before the leaves turn brown and fall to the ground. TEHCC will offer guided hikes in places like Grayson Highlands State Park outside of Damascus, VA and Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower in Erwin, TN this month which are sure to let you soak in the Fall foliage at its finest. See the list below or visit our trail wiki, [www.tehcc.org/wiki](http://www.tehcc.org/wiki), for additional information regarding these hikes and more.

## Fall Dinner Meeting – Friday, October 3, 2014

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.

If you didn't get your dinner reservation in by the deadline, you can still see the program as there is no charge for attending the presentation only.

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	6:30pm-7:15pm	By Sugar & Spice Catering
Club Business	7:15pm-8:00pm	Update of club activities
<b>Special Program: River of No Return</b>	<b>8:00pm-9:00pm</b>	<b>Ed Montgomery</b>

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## Trading Post: Club Patch and Shirt

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**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](mailto: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

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## TEHCC A.T. Section Length

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*Vic Hasler reporting*

For the record, the club's maintenance section of the Appalachian Trail is now 133.6 miles long. It increased by 0.7 mile because of multiple relocations opened in the past year, thus expanding the distance stated in the 2014 A.T. Data Book from Virginia–Tennessee Line (3.7 miles from Damascus) to Spivey Gap, U.S. 19W (136.6 miles). Thanks to everyone who is involved in keeping the "simple footpath" open.

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## 2014-2015 Deer Hunting Seasons

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*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.

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## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

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Janice Beaulieu

William Hendon

Allison Pymmer

Barbara Raymond

Jessica Nichol

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## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Oct 3	Fall Dinner Meeting		
Oct 4	<a href="#">APE's Upper Russell Fork River Trip</a>	<a href="#">Wesley R. Bradley</a>	423-647-1321
Oct 9	F/B: Wild Ponies at <a href="#">Grayson Highlands SP</a>	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854 or 423-956-1822
Oct 11	Fall Color Hike – Comers Creek Falls Loop	<a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a>	423-753-7263
Oct 12	<a href="#">Falls of Little Stony Creek</a>	R. Blankenbecler	423-765-0609
Oct 18	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday Hiking with Tools	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a>	423-366-0128
Oct 19	<a href="#">Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower</a>	<a href="#">Barry Griggs</a>	423-239-5676 or 423-863-4590
Oct 21	TEHCC Steering Committee		
Oct 26	F/B: <a href="#">Warrior's Path State Park – Mt. Bike Trails</a>	<a href="#">Vic Hasler</a>	423-239-0388
Nov 8	Special A.T. Maintenance with ASU Trail Crew	<a href="#">Carl Fritz</a>	
Nov 16	F/B: <a href="#">Buffalo Mountain Park – White Rock Overlook</a>	<a href="#">Barry Griggs</a>	423-239-5676 or 423-863-4590

### 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.

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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

Contact: [Wesley R. Bradley](#), 423-647-1321

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 [Wesley R. Bradley](#). 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 133.6-mile section each week, usually on Thursdays.

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

Contact: [George Mauger](mailto:George.Mauger@tehcc.org), 864-414-0296

Interested in kayaking but don't know where to start? Basic kayaking training and practice is now available in Kingsport on Thursdays at the [Kingsport Aquatic Center](#)! During the winter months (October-April), the indoor pool is sectioned off specifically for kayakers to practice basic paddling techniques. Admission is only \$3 for 2 full hours of fun and Aquatic Center members may attend free! If you have equipment, you may drop it off outside the door closest to the pool then enter the main door to pay at the front desk. The pool does not provide paddling equipment, but if you are just starting out and do not have your own gear please contact [George Mauger](#) (864-414-0296). For additional event details, click [here](#).

## **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**

### **APE's Upper Russell Fork River Trip – Saturday, October 4, 2014**

Leader: [Wesley R. Bradley](#), 423-647-1321

Rating: Experienced

Wesley R. Bradley will lead a Class II-III river trip on the Upper Russell Fork for experienced paddlers. The Upper section of the Russell Fork offers many play features and is a great run for both play and river running. There's also an option to run the seal launch (think sledding in a kayak!) at the end of the run, which always provides quality entertainment! Any whitewater craft may be used for this run, but recreational kayaks/canoes are not appropriate for this river. 1<sup>st</sup> Timers are welcome on this trip, but Class II whitewater experience is required and all attendees must provide their own equipment. Cold weather layers are a must as it tends to get chilly this time of year. If you'd like to join the trip, please contact Wesley R. Bradley at 423-647-1321. We look forward to seeing you there!

### **F/B: Wild Ponies at Grayson Highlands SP – Thursday, October 9, 2014**

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

Rating: Easy 4 to 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 Thursday 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.

### **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.

### **Falls of Little Stony Creek – Sunday, October 12, 2014**

*Leader: R. Blankenbecler, 423-765-0609*

*Rating: Moderate 5.6 miles round trip*

This will be a joint hike with the Mid-Appalachian Highlands Club (MAHC) based in Johnson City. Come out and make some new hiking friends and experience two picturesque waterfalls - a curtain and a plunge - hidden in a forested gorge. This yellow-blazed trail winds through the deep rock-strewn gorge carved by the cascading Little Stony Creek. Several footbridges provide us crossing over fast currents and large boulders. We will meet in Colonial Heights at 1:30 sharp and car pool to meet the MAHC hikers closer to the Virginia line. From there we will caravan to the Hanging Rock Recreation area near Dungannon. Bring a snack for enjoying at the falls, ample water, and clothing suitable for changeable fall weather. Please contact the hike leader in advance for questions or to sign up for the hike.

### **Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower – Sunday, October 19, 2014**

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

*Rating: Moderate 9-mile round-trip hike with 1400-ft elevation gain at steady 6% grade*

The fall colors could be at peak for this hike to the former fire tower, now refurbished as an observation platform, up on the Buffalo Mountain ridgeline. The 360 degree view includes Clinch, Green, Roan, Buffalo, and other mountain ranges ablaze with color from the hardwoods. Leave Colonial Heights at 1:00 PM. Alternatively, can meet in Johnson City by 1:20 PM or at the trailhead (I-26 Exit 32 Unicoi) at 1:30 PM. Expected return is roughly 6:30 PM.

### **F/B: Warriors Path State Park - Mountain Bike Trails – Sunday, October 26, 2014**

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

*Rating: Easy 3 to 5-mile round-trip hike along single track paths with less than 300-feet elevation change*

A group choice hike to the Warriors' Path Mountain Bike Trail System which is also open to walking. A short end of the distance is accessing The Boneyard trail from Lake Road to enjoy a couple of hours with great views of the park and river. The hike is suitable for small children. The upper distance is realized by adding Darwin's Revenge for more leaf crunching through the woods. Hikers are to meet at 1:30 PM in the gravel parking lot a of Warriors' Path State Park, but the hike is off of Buttermilk Road in the Fall Creek area. Expected return is 4:30 PM.

### **Special A.T. Maintenance with ASU Trail Crew – Saturday, November 8, 2014**

*Leader: Carl Fritz*

The ASU Trail Crew will be joining us to work on a trail relocation [South of Little Rock Knob](#). We will start at Hughes Gap and walk about 2.5 miles to the site. Please contact Carl Fritz [atvolunteer@tehcc.org](mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org). This event is scheduled from 8 am – 5 pm.

### **F/B: Buffalo Mountain Park - White Rock Overlook – Sunday, November 16, 2014**

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

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

Views of the I-26 valley and mountains to the east from the overlook are the reward for a steep walk up trails or the gravel access road. Leave Colonial Heights at 1:00 PM or Johnson City at 1:20 PM to arrive at the park trailhead by 1:30 PM. Expected return is before sunset.

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## **For the Record**

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### **Devils Bathtub Hike, June 8, 2014**

*Terry Dougherty reporting*

This started out as a trip to Lake Keokee, but the leader was out voted by popular demand. The water level was low in Devils Fork which made the fifteen or so creek crossings much easier than usual. There were lots of hikers on the trail that day because of the good weather. Attending were Brenda Hitch, Gabriela Bruggeman, Thresa Dougherty, and Terry Dougherty.



## Bays Mountain Bays Ridge Loop, August 17, 2014

*Tim McClain reporting*

Another in the TEHCC Sunday Hike series, on August 17th the featured hike was in Kingsport at Bays Mountain. The Bays Ridge Loop covers about 5.3 miles to the southwestern side of the park and back. The weather was warm but rain free for a pleasureable Sunday outing. Enjoying this hike were Peggy McClain and Tim McClain.

## A.T.: Measuring Relocations, August 23, 2014

*Vic Hasler reporting*

The original stated purpose of this hike was to measure the final trail distance from Cloudland down to Hughes Gap as a shuttle hike. The prior week of rain, including a heavy cloudburst Saturday morning, probably deterred anyone else from joining. The day started with a cool fog on top which later burned off to a very sunny, but humid, afternoon.

Relocations of the Appalachian Trail between former Cloudland hotel site and Ash Gap have replaced the steep, washed-out ditch with multiple gradual switchbacks opened in 2012-2014. The last seven relocations opened in 2014 have added 0.3 mile to this trail section which is now 1.4 miles total. The graphic on the right compares the 2013 track (yellow) with 2014 path (orange) to show the further transition of the trail.

Just under two hours were needed to hike down to Ash Gap and back while pushing the measuring wheel. From the weekend prior, Garry Luttrell had alerted me to look out for the Pink Turtlehead (*Chelone lyonii*) flowers which were enjoyed in several places.

The afternoon was then available for measuring trail relocations between Little Rock Knob and Clyde Smith shelter. From the overlook, the washed view of a leafy green carpet of the valley below into the North Carolina mountains was outstanding. The steep plunge or climb immediately below the overlook was replaced with 1625 feet of a long switchback. Later a 2300-foot relocation was opened to eliminate a roughly 200' up-and-down by the shelter. The two tracks are shown below with the dotted line approximating the A.T. per Google Maps. Overall net impact was a 0.2 mile increase in the trail distance.

Another five hours were spent measuring the trail in this section. Notable wildlife observed were four orange salamanders and several active chipmunks. Overall, roughly 11 miles were hiked to view the excellent trail management efforts by many club members, including involvement of the Hard Core and Konnarock events.



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

*For the detailed report, go to [worldkayak.com](http://worldkayak.com)*

Saturday, August 30, 2014, was the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) annual first timer's trip on the Nolichucky River. We organized both a Nolichucky Gorge trip (Class III at this level) led by several of our top gun APes and a Lower Nolichucky River trip (Class II) led by Debbie Briscoe. We had a hot and humid day with partly cloudy skies and temps in the high 80's to low 90's. The river flow was a low 400 CFS on the Embreeville Gauge which made for a technical and tricky level for some of our Gorge first timers and returning paddlers. We had 29 total participants on the Gorge trip with 12 first timers (28 completed the run). The Lower Noli trip had a great turn out too despite the low level and holiday weekend! Debbie led a group of 14 paddlers with 7 first timers on a run from the USA Raft Outpost to the parking area take-out near the Sawmill below Devil's Looking Glass Rapid. After we got off the river (with many lessons learned the hard way), we met back up at the USA Raft Outpost to have a picnic dinner catered by Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen. After the meal many stayed around for fellowship and river tales to top off the day!



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## A.T. Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/15/2014

**Purpose:** Dig relocation

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

**People:** Daryl Anderson, John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Bob Horan, Alexandra Hupko, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko, Mike Hupko, Jr., Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Mike Price, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, Mike Tuttle; ASU: Anna Allman, James Baer, Daelyn Bentley-Gottel, Madison Bergstedt, Julie Boda, Corina Bost, Jaden Brown, Kelsey Butler, Lois Caldwell, Shannon Campbell, Joshua Chung, Megan Cooper, Christina Donovan, Matthew Dye, Lory Echols, Hannah Elderkin, Lindsay Freundlich, Thorin George, Hannah Gillespie, Anna Pate Glover, Christina Gray, Kelsey Griffith, Kelsey Hayes, James Hedrick, Megan Hoover, Victoria Howerton, Sydney Huff, Allanah Hund, Libby Indermaur, Luke Jobe, Addie Jones, Jack Kesselman, Kyle Kimball. Molly Kucmierz, Harper Lanier, Morgan Long, Vanessa Ly, Megan Mansfield, Kayla McMillan, Andrea Medina, Lily Mize, Raven Moffett, Phoenix Moser, Christopher Mykytyn, Victoria Nobles, Taylor Oakey, Victoria Olender, Zachary Oliver, Katherine Pate, Lucas Piedrahita, Jessica Pierce, Markus Prescott, Chloe Prunet, Jonathan Raby, Dianne Scardino, Marissa Schneider, Alexa Scott, Alex Sheffield, Tana Smith, Adrienne Strehle, William Suits, Cody Treadaway, Sophie Weaver, Aaron Wells, Cameron Wood, Julia Zaleski, Nick Colebaugh, Leika Wright, Ebuka Ibeziako, Sunni Ryan, Alex Prestrud, Tiffany Bennett, Molly Sharp, Lorene Evans, Katie Howard, Kevin White, Nicholas Eichen, Riley Parr, Andrea Roller, Joe Bryan, Michael Dale, Huey Lu, Brandon Poul, Clark Maddux

**Summary:** This was the fourteenth year that the Watauga Global Community of Appalachian State University has brought their freshmen to do trail maintenance as part of their orientation. The students became very involved with the trail building this year. We learned that Backbone Rock has a lot of hidden rocks that we were not expecting under the duff. Some of the students were enthusiastically removing the large boulders from the new path after they learned some techniques. We built about 800 feet of trail. Thanks to the cooperation of many club members and friends plus the professors and returning sophomores, the outing was a success.

**Reporting:** Bob Peoples

**Date:** 8/18/2014

**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 the job site. The students were outstanding.

**Reporting:** Bob Peoples

**Date:** 8/27/2014

**Purpose:** Place sign and scout for projects

**Location:** Section 9b, Waycaster Spring and south side of Pond Mountain

**People:** Bob Peoples

**Summary:** Bob installed a new Waycaster Spring sign in Laurel Fork Gorge. He also cleared access to the spring. He scouted the south side of Pond Mountain for upcoming Wilderness Rally projects.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 8/27/2014

**Purpose:** Mow open area and repair Trail

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

**People:** Eric Middlemas, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We mowed a short section of the A.T. in Deep Gap and the trail to the spring. We also mowed all of the trail in Beauty Spot Gap and a short section of trail just north of Beauty Spot. We dug about 45 feet of new trail to bypass a downed tree covering the old trail, and removed trash at the Beauty Spot parking area.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/28/2014

**Purpose:** Replace Koonford Bridge

**Location:** Section 10, Koonford Bridge

**People:** Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Becky Kinder, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Mike Price, Gayle Riddervold, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, "Feather"

**Summary:** We continued preparing for the Koonford Bridge replacement. We continued mortaring rocks to the two existing piers to enlarge them. We basically built the temporary trail for the expected temporary bridge. This required much rock and sand work to get a suitable path. And the railroad grade from Dennis Cove has been smoothed significantly by removing large rocks (some by having to break them with wedges). The little stream crossings have been improved also. Some enjoyed the hot day by playing in the water.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 8/29/2014

**Purpose:** Start fall maintenance

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

**People:** Eric Middlemas, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We cleaned out waterbars and dips, lopped small branches and loose roots, cut four trees and removed small branches along the trail, cleaned out the shelter and dug out a diversion ditch in front of the shelter, repaired the roof gutter, picked up trash, and left a new shelter register. We identified several sections of the trail needing treadway repair.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/29/2014

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 4a, US421 to Double Springs Shelter

**People:** Carl Fritz, Mary Jane Fritz

**Summary:** We cleared the reported blowdowns. The only problem one was the 12-incher that was waist to chest high and could not be skirted. We did some brushing and kicked out some waterbars. The trail is in good shape until we make a trip in the fall.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/30/2014

**Purpose:** Sharpen and repair tools

**Location:** Carl's house

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** We sharpened and repaired tools after the Watauga College and Wright State University outings.

**Reporting:** Bill Fuller

**Date:** 8/30/2014

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

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

**People:** Bill Fuller

**Summary:** I hiked the entire section, cutting a lot of overhanging limbs, weeds, and encroaching rhododendrons. I also cleared one medium-sized blowdown about two-thirds of the way up the mountain. I took care of a yellow jackets nest that was right on the trail not far from the kiosk. The spring on top of Pond is bone dry. It was a beautiful day!!!

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 8/31/2014

**Purpose:** Maintain section and install sign

**Location:** Section 20b, Spivey Gap to campsite above Oglesby Branch

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** I started by installing a new routed wood sign made by Steve Perri to denote the TEHCC section running from Spivey Gap to the TN/VA line. The sign was affixed to an older post next to the nice Clyde Smith-style sign very close to the gap. I then completed the Spivey to Devils Creek Gap section that was started earlier, clipping mostly rhododendron and cutting a few blowdowns from Spivey to a campsite above Oglesby Branch. One large blowdown is left within 0.1 miles of Spivey Gap that is an easy stepover for a chainsaw trip. There is a huge tree off-trail along the upper portion of Oglesby Branch; I want to go over and measure it.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 9/1/2014

**Purpose:** Replace Koonford Bridge



**Location:** Section 10, Koonford Bridge

**People:** Tim Stewart, Bob Peoples, Ed Oliver, Paul Benfield

**Summary:** We worked on the bridge piers.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 9/1/2014

**Purpose:** Check Trail

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

**People:** Craig Haire

**Summary:** I did a walk-through to Temple Hill Gap and back. The Trail is in fairly good shape, but still needs more clearing of undergrowth. I took my lopper and cleared some pine saplings and overhanging rhodos, but got into some ground wasps and sustained several stings. I removed a blowdown across the trail in the middle of the ridge with my 12" electric chainsaw.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 9/3/2014

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns and put up new shelter sign

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

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Ken and I removed two large blowdowns from the trail on our way to the shelter. We installed the new sign for the shelter and refreshed some blue blazes. The new relocations are holding up well and the rest of the trail was in good shape.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/4/2014

**Purpose:** Replace Koonford Bridge

**Location:** Section 10, Koonford Bridge

**People:** Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Becky Kinder, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Mike Price, Gayle Riddervold, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, "Flipper"

**Summary:** We continued to enlarge the two rock piers. The southern pier is about as high as we can go until the bridge is removed. We established a significant base on the upstream side of the northern pier using huge rocks and cement. The crew also established a large jetty above the northern pier. About two more trips and it will be time to remove the old bridge.

**Reporting:** Bob Peoples

**Date:** 9/5/2014

**Purpose:** Prepare for trail rehab

**Location:** Section 9b, South side of Pond Mountain

**People:** Jim Chambers, Bob Peoples, Mike Price

**Summary:** We cut a dead locust into usable lengths for steps. This is in preparation for Wilderness Rally projects tomorrow. The locust was in a difficult location and it took a long time with limited tools to finally get it positioned on the trail where it can be hauled to the work site tomorrow.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/6/2014

**Purpose:** Rehab Trail

**Location:** Section 9b, Pond Flats to Hampton trailhead

**People:** Jim Chambers, Robin Dean, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Mike Price, Tim Stewart, Allison Williams

**Summary:** As part of the Wilderness Rally this group repaired two switchbacks above the railroad grade by adding rock and locust log steps. They did some other trail repairs. This section is in good shape according to Joe, the section maintainer. Steve displayed our club information at the Rally in the evening.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/6/2014

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

**Location:** Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats, South of Shook Branch Road

**People:** Carl Fritz, Jeremiah Bolick, Kevin O'Donnell, Tip Ray, James Lautzenheiser, Reuben Potter

**Summary:** We rehabbed among the switchbacks between Shook Branch Road and the wilderness boundary. One bad switchback we



*Enlarging rock piers*

totally redid by crushing the rock that kept us from going into the hillside, realigning trail, and adding three rock steps. We removed many areas of roots that were difficult to hike over without slipping. We reset a locust log side-crib that had fallen down the hill as well as all the rock that had comprised the trail. This section of trail is in reasonable condition now.

**Reporting:** George Thorpe

**Date:** 9/6/2014

**Purpose:** Replace Koonford Bridge

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Dave Clark, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We hauled in three bags of concrete mix and additional mortar cement. We used the concrete mix to partially fill the center of downstream side of the north pier. We made up two batches of mortar mix to continue buildup of rockwork on upstream side of the north pier. Much work remains.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 9/8/2014

**Purpose:** Clear encroaching brush undergrowth

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

**People:** Craig Haire

**Summary:** I completed clearing up to the ridge and began clearing along the ridge.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 9/8/2014

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 2b, Between McQueens Knob and Abingdon Gap Shelter

**People:** Bob Peoples, Jim Chambers

**Summary:** We removed four small blowdowns south of McQueens Gap and a very large blowdown north of McQueens Gap.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 9/8/2014

**Purpose:** Mow camping area and blue-blaze trails

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed the camping area and cut weeds along the trail to the privy. The water is running strong.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 9/8/2014

**Purpose:** Mow Trail

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed and cut weeds along the trail across the Osborne Farm. We installed one post to mark the trail and installed one water diversion to stop the erosion on the Accessible Trail. The Accessible Trail needs to be sprayed again as the grass needs to be removed. The grass is taking over the trail. The cattle have been rotated to the front fields to include the Accessible Trail which they are fertilizing very well. They are also using the trail as an easel to conduct their cattle splatting contests.

**Reporting:** George Thorpe

**Date:** 9/9/2014

**Purpose:** Replace Koonford Bridge

**Location:** Section 10, Koonford Bridge

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We carried in six bags of concrete and seven bags of masonry sand. This material was used to add additional courses of rock to upgrade Koonford Bridge piers.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 9/10/2014

**Purpose:** Place information sign

**Location:** Section 1, Tennessee/Virginia state line

**People:** Jim Chambers

**Summary:** I hiked from Damascus to the VA/TN state line to put up a new TEHCC information sign.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 9/11/2014

**Purpose:** Replace Koonford Bridge

**Location:** Section 10, Koonford Bridge

**People:** Tim Stewart, Ed Oliver, Richard Carter, Brian Paley, Joe Morris, Jim Chambers, Mike Price, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** We worked on the northside pier of the Koonford Bridge until it started raining around 11:30. There are about 8 to 10 inches left to complete.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/11/2014

**Purpose:** Replace Koonford Bridge

**Location:** Carl's house

**People:** Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Bob Horan, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Kim Peters, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We cut a flat on each post 19" long to mount onto bridge and drilled two holes through them. We also cut notches for three hand rails. We cut the 4x4 bracing. We have started cutting hand rails with half laps to tie them together. More sawing and drilling remains for another day to complete the hand rails.

**Reporting:** Vic Hasler

**Date:** 9/12/2014

**Purpose:** Measure trail relocation

**Location:** Section 8, US 231 to Watauga Lake Shelter

**People:** Vic Hasler

**Summary:** This year, the club has opened a 690-foot relocation along Watauga Lake to bypass some fishermen's camps along the shore. The measuring wheel was used to check the anchor points as stated in the 2013 A.T. Data Book. The trail distance between US 321 and Griffith Branch was found to be 1.5 miles which is 0.1 mile longer than stated in the data book and 0.2 mile longer than provided in the 14th edition guide book between the gate and Griffith Branch. The 0.4 mile trail distance measured from Griffith Branch to the Watauga Lake shelter sign is also 0.1 mile longer than stated in the data and guide books. The extensive amount of work the club has put into this section of trail is evident as an excellent and stable footpath.

Along with measuring, the never-ending growth was clipped. Griffith Branch is dry; even after the rain this week. The shelter, which is closed due to bear activity, was found to be in good condition with water flowing in the nearby stream. A discarded pair of soaking wet long johns was removed from the campfire ring and hauled out. Since the closure notice also prohibits "consumption of food," apparently the bears have been enjoying themselves; multiple six packs of aluminum cans and glass bottles of various adult beverages were also hauled out from the campsites.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/12/2014

**Purpose:** Replace Koonford Bridge

**Location:** Carl's House

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Bob Horan, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We finished cutting, drilling and even filing the round posts and round rails and braces for the beams. We used chop saws, miter saws, hand saws, table saws, and chain saws to do all the cutting. It is going to be a massive bridge. Ted spent most of his time checking out rental possibilities for a scaffold board to serve a day or two as a temporary bridge.

**Reporting:** Scotty Bowman

**Date:** 9/14/2014

**Purpose:** Remove tree and brush Trail

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

**People:** Scotty Bowman, James Lautzenheiser

**Summary:** James and I removed one 18" tree about 2.5 miles trail north of Wilbur Dam Road. It had fallen across the trail and was beginning to cause some resource damage. Also, beginning at the two-mile mark we did spot brushing up to the 3.25 mile mark. We met seven south bounders, a couple doing a weekend hike and 15 folks out for a leisurely hike.

**Reporting:** Ed Oliver

**Date:** 9/14/2014

**Purpose:** Replace Koonford Bridge

**Location:** Section 10, Koonford Bridge

**People:** Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** Ed and Bob completed mortaring rocks on the northern pier to bring it to the proper level. The old bridge can now be removed.



*Much sawing and drilling at Carl's house*

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/16/2014

**Purpose:** Replace Koonford Bridge

**Location:** Section 10, Koonford Bridge

**People:** Daryl Anderson, John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Mike Price, Fritz Swanson

**Summary:** We completely dismantled the old bridge. We reconstructed the northern section which contained logs as a good looking temporary bridge on wooden piers. Ken and Pat with some help from Paul rehabbed the trail to allow us easier passage with wheel barrows between the bridge and railroad cut.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/17/2014

**Purpose:** Replace Koonford Bridge

**Location:** Section 10, Koonford Bridge

**People:** John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Alice Cohen, Carl Fritz, Bob Horan, Becky Kinder, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Gayle Riddervold, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We built forms for two piers and poured 6+ inches of concrete to cap the piers. Rebar and threaded rods were added. We also did a majority of the forming on both banks for more concrete. We hauled 1280 pounds of concrete; Jim must have hauled half a ton himself! We also hauled out much of the old bridge materials.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/18/2014

**Purpose:** Replace Koonford Bridge

**Location:** Section 10, Koonford Bridge

**People:** Daryl Anderson, John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Bob Horan, Becky Kinder, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Gayle Riddervold, Kevin Sedgewick, George Thorpe, 2 hikers

**Summary:** We finished the two bank pads by pouring 1120 pounds of concrete. We also moved most of the old bridge materials out except for those used on the temporary bridge. We completed cutting out a temporary trail to the bridge work site. We also built a temporary bridge at the second stream crossing near Dennis Cove so we can get carts over it.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/19/2014

**Purpose:** Replace Koonford Bridge

**Location:** Carl's house

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** We sorted out everyone's small tools and the hardware from disassembling the bridge and concreting the piers. We also prepared some more materials for the new bridge.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 9/20/2014

**Purpose:** 3rd Saturday Hiking with Tools

**Location:** Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to Devil's Creek Gap

**People:** Ken Murray, Lotta Murray, Joe DeLoach, Terry Oldfield, Kim Peters

**Summary:** The task for the September 3rd Saturday Hiking with Tools trip was to work on the 5 mile section of trail between Temple Hill Gap and Devil's Creek Gap. The weeds and rhododendron were thick starting out of Temple Hill Gap and the going was slow, but we lopped, whacked weeds and cut blowdowns until we finally reached No Business Shelter, 2.4 miles in, at 3 pm. We picked up trash at the shelter, left a new log book, shovel and broom, then continued on to Devil's Creek Gap. We stopped at the spring to install a pipe and spray a nearby wasps nest. The water level is low at the spring, but it is flowing. The rhodos were not as bad after the shelter, so we were able to move a little faster, although there were several blowdowns to be cleared. Some we just moved off the trail and others needed to be cut. We finally got back to our car at Can Lot about 5:30 and after retrieving the vehicle at Temple Hill Gap were on our way home by 6 pm. It was a long day, but we left the trail in much better shape than we found it and it was an absolutely beautiful day to be out in the woods. We met 3-4 day hikers and about as many backpackers also out enjoying the fine weather.

**Reporting:** AnnaHackler

**Date:** 9/20/2014



*Dismantling the old bridge*

**Purpose:** Clear out yellow jacket nest

**Location:** Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Blue-blaze about a mile from parking lot

**People:** Shane Hackler, Anna Hackler

**Summary:** Two people told us there was a large yellow-jacket nest in the middle of the trail to Laurel Falls, and several people have been getting stung. It was actually in a rotted tree that had fallen across the trail. We cleared it out and killed any yellow jackets that were present. We moved the tree off the trail, walked another half mile, then came back (allowing time for any stragglers to return to the nest), and sprayed again. About 15 more yellow jackets were killed. We waited awhile and left after no more showed up.

When we were about to leave the parking area, some hikers told us there are two more yellow-jacket nests closer to the falls on the second bridge.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 9/20/2014

**Purpose:** Remove blowdown

**Location:** Section 1, TN/VA state line

**People:** Bob Peoples, Jim Chambers

**Summary:** We removed a blowdown just south of the Tennessee/Virginia state line.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 9/22/2014

**Purpose:** Fall Walk-Through

**Location:** Section 17, Cherry Gap to FS230 Switchback

**People:** Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, David Douthat, Daryl Loyd, Judy Middlemas, Eric Middlemas, Lana Scott, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We cleared seven blowdowns from the trail, lopped, cleaned waterbars, picked up trash, and checked Cherry Gap Shelter and the springs. We also cleared the side trail from FS230 to the north Unaka switchback on the A.T. just above Low Gap.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 9/22/2014

**Purpose:** Fall Walk-Through

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

**People:** Lamar Adcox, Jeannine Edwards, Jerry Jones, Andrew Cleland, John Parks

**Summary:** This group cleaned water bars, lopped, cleaned around two large blowdowns pending removal by chainsaw, and picked up trash. Beauty Spot has been bush-hogged and the trail is passable.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 9/22/2014

**Purpose:** Clear undergrowth

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

**People:** Craig Haire

**Summary:** I cut back the encroaching rhododendron, pine saplings, striped maple and other underbrush for about 1/4 mile.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 9/22/2014

**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns and do routine maintenance

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

**People:** Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Bruce and I cut three blowdowns, rehabbed some trail, and cleaned waterbars.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/23/2014

**Purpose:** Replace Koonford Bridge

**Location:** Section 10, Koonford Bridge and Rat Branch Work Center

**People:** Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Becky Kinder, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Gayle Riddervold, Kevin Sedgwick, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We stiffened temporary bridges near Dennis Cove, cleared some stumps that were obstacles, measured pier caps, mortared some rocks to hide concrete pads, and cut and drilled deck boards, beams, and sills. We used a 12" cutoff saw for the 3" deck boards and a chainsaw for everything else.