



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

January 2015

tehcc.org

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From the Chair

Steve Ankabrandt, Steering Committee Chair

Greetings everyone and Happy New Year. First, thank you for the opportunity to serve this year as Chair of the TEHCC Steering Committee. My interest in backpacking and involvement with Scouting helped me capture this prestigious position. However, I may be best known by many of you as “RJ’s father”. My son – whose trail name is “RJ” – completed an AT Thru-hike in 2013 which made the front page of the “Kingsport Times-News”. Many of you were on my blog and

received RJ’s weekly progress updates during his trek.

This coming year we have several Committee members who are rotating off the committee. Leaving will be Terry Dougherty, Garry Luttrell, and Tim McClain. All three have been very active in TEHCC and all have led TEHCC hikes in 2014 and plan to continue being involved in 2015. Brien Lewis will continue serving on the Committee as past-chair and his expertise will be called upon often. So our Club will be retaining a lot of valuable experience and assistance!

We also welcome our new Committee members: Yancey Appling, Andrea Gass, and William Werner and look forward to their contributions in serving our Club.

Looking forward to a great year!

Grant from LL Bean and ATC

Carl Fritz reporting

This year, the ATC is awarding \$24,175 to 14 Appalachian Trail (A.T.) clubs and their partners in local communities through a grant program. These grants, provided by the ATC with generous support from L.L.Bean Inc., help fund necessary projects along the Appalachian Trail, such as trail, shelter, and bridge construction, recruiting and training new volunteers, purchasing tools and safety gear, developing educational materials, and community outreach.

The A.T. is a unit of the National Park System, stretching from Georgia to Maine, at approximately 2,180 miles in length. It is the longest hiking-only footpath in the world. Volunteers typically donate more than 220,000 hours of their time doing trail-related work each year and about 2 to 3 million visitors walk a portion of the A.T. each year. The ATC has awarded more than half a million dollars in grants to the ATC’s affiliated Trail clubs and their volunteers through the L.L.Bean Grants to A.T. Clubs program since 1982.

The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club were fortunate to receive a grant to purchase a Garmin GPS and accessories this fall. We have already had it in the field two days to record some trail deficiencies and a couple of planned trail relocations. This unit will provide our trail maintainers the capability to follow up on trail assessments, find reported deficiencies reported by hikers, record trail deficiencies, record flagged relocations so both we and U.S. Forest Service can locate, and record newly opened relocations. It should also provide us the capability to record special accesses for trail maintenance. Currently, Carl Fritz has the unit but it can be borrowed for trail projects. Thanks to L.L. Bean and ATC for their long term support of A.T. maintenance.

Wilderness First Aid Course

With the successful course held in 2014, the APEs/TEHCC are considering another offering on Sat-Sun, March 28-29 at the Eastman Lodge. The separate CPR course would be held on Saturday night to eliminate another day of travel. If interested, please contact Scott Fisher at tfisher1@its.inj.com or 276-698-4644 as a minimum of ten participants are required.

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Jan 20	TEHCC Steering Committee	Steve Ankabrandt	chair@tehcc.org
Feb 20	TEHCC Maintainers Dinner 2015	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
Mar 20	TEHCC Spring Dinner [Tentative]	Steve Ankabrandt	chair@tehcc.org
Mar 28-29	Wilderness First Aid Course [Tentative]	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644

Details of Upcoming Events

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 fellowshipping with other paddlers. Admission to the pool is \$2; rolling advice is free! Contact the pool office (423- 461-4872) for session confirmation or questions regarding the facility.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Note: The J.A.W. provides the current fleet of boats for demo at the pool session, but neither the pool nor the J.A.W. provides paddling equipment (paddle, spray skirt, etc.). If you are just starting out in the sport and do not have your own equipment, please post a message on the [APEs yahoo group site](#) or contact [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

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](#), 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](#).

Scheduled Events

TEHCC Steering Committee meeting, Tue, January 20, 11:30am – 1:00pm

Contact: Steve Ankabrandt, chair@tehcc.org

Location: Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN; Bldg 75 - Room 407

The Steering Committee guides the general program for the club. Meetings are held monthly at lunchtime and are open to all TEHCC members. Members who are not current Eastman employees need to contact a member of the Steering Committee at least the day prior to arrange for a temporary pass.

TEHCC Maintainers Dinner 2015, Friday, February 20, 2015

Contact: Kim Peters, 423-366-0128, atmaint@tehcc.org

Further details will be posted on the main TEHCC webpage when available. Also, look for more details in the February newsletter.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Faye Guinn

Date: 11/9/2014

Purpose: Clear trail

Location: Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot

People: Jeannine Edwards, Tim Shipley

Summary: Jeannine was leading a hike on this section on Monday; so she and Tim made a trip on Sunday with saw and loppers to be sure the trail was clean for her hike. They cut and removed several small blowdowns.

L to R: Billy, Zeke, Sophia, Kassie, Katy, Joshua, Holland, Savannah, & Joy

Reporting: Burts Compton

Date: 11/22/2014

Purpose: Remove trash

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap trailhead

People: Burts and Sam Compton

Summary: While waiting to be picked up after a previous section hike with BSA Troop 48, a large amount of trash down the steep hillside was observed. To complete service hours for the 50-Miler Award associated with a Philmont backpacking trip, Burts and Sam returned to this trailhead to pull out over a dozen large garbage bags of debris, eight tires, and a badly deteriorated and rusted bus seat - complete with springs, vinyl upholstery and seat belts. TDOT was contacted to haul away the trash pile from the parking area.



Reporting: Gerald Scott

Date: 11/22/2014

Purpose: Routine Fall Maintenance

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

People: Gerald Scott, Harold Wexler

Summary: We lopped back rhododendrons and removed several small blowdowns and lots of limbs brought down by the recent snow. We also dug out steps, cleared water ways, swept out the shelter, and carried out trash.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 11/29/2014

Purpose: Aggressively address rhododendron

Location: Section 19b, Jones Branch bottomland

People: Vic Hasler, Clark Hasler, Burts Compton, Sam Compton, Eric Layne, Alex Layne, Mike Callahan, Nick Chavez

Summary: Four parent/scout pairs were recruited from Troop 48 (primarily completing service hours for 50-Miler Award or Camping merit badge) to heavily trim the thick rhododendron and remove fallen logs from the trail in the Jones Branch bottomland. Per maintenance standards, the one and half foot of brush along each side of the open tread was mostly removed with loppers and hand saws to prevent future problems after winter storms or high wind. This aggressive removal will allow the two-foot-per-year growth rate to fill out the edges by summer when the rhododendron is in bloom. While there is still another mile of trail north of the switchbacks to the shelter to be addressed, this section is mostly ready for the winter.

Reporting: Scott Alan

Date: 11/30/2014

Purpose: General maintenance

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

People: Scott Alan

Summary: I cleaned campsites and picked up hiker trash, took out two blowdowns, and cut overhanging low laurels. I placed rocks in trail where it was muddy and dug out the sidehill bank along Laurel Fork Creek. It was a nice warm day to melt the accumulated snow.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 12/2/2014

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: Today we went in about a mile to check the condition of the trail. All the waterbars were full of wet leaves. We cleaned out over 25 waterbars, picked up numerous beer and soda bottles at the trail head, and sawed a few small stumps that were sticking out on the trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/4/2014

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 5, Two to three miles south of TN 91

People: Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart

Summary: We redug a switchback and added 100 feet of cribbing and three steps. Also, we dug 60 feet of sloughing trail. We cut out a large blowdown and reviewed some planned relocations in the area. It turned out to be a drizzly and wet day, but temperatures were moderate.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 12/7/2014

Purpose: Update TEHCC Local Management Plan

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: The ATC Comprehensive Plan calls for development of Local Management Plans to capture the policies and procedures adopted by individual clubs to oversee their assigned trail section in cooperation with agency partners. The last revision of this document for TEHCC was made in 2006. Since October, an extensive update has been underway to provide the current trail status and vision to assist the club leadership. It is anticipated that further modifications will be made until the file is reviewed with the SORO RPC (Deep South Regional Partnership Committee) and agency partners in late March and early April. In subsequent years, a brief examination of the plan will hopefully be sufficient to maintain its relevance. Please contact me if you would like a chance to review and provide input.

Reporting: Phyllis Cairnes

Date: 12/8/2014

Purpose: Maintain shelter

Location: Section 2b, Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Kim Peters, Phyllis Cairnes

Summary: Kim brought her handsaw and cut a small fallen tree so we could move it off the trail. We noted another one just south of McQueen's Gap about 8 inches in diameter that will require cutting with a larger saw. At the shelter we picked up trash and lots of Dr. Enuf bottles, cleaned the frozen mats of leaves out of the gutter, shoveled out the fire ring, and replaced the journal. It has been noted this shelter needs new guttering. Kim's dog, Chipper, accompanied us and seems to love picking up and moving small limbs and sticks. Good dog!

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/11/2014

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 10, Blue-Blaze Trail from Hampton

People: Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We continued to try to repair the bad area along Laurel Fork. It is a major challenge with the steep sloping rocks with limited footholds and springs that bring water down the rock. The large locust crib, that we placed last time, was filled with rock and crushed rock. We added another 24-foot long 12-inch locust as a second crib. Moving the locust required about three hours for five of us. We did get the locust pinned and back-filled with mostly rock. Many more large rocks were carefully moved down the hill to the trail. We will need many more.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 12/12/2014

Purpose: Clear blowdown

Location: Section 20a, middle of section, between Nolichucky River and Temple Hill Gap

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I cleared a blowdown reported to me with my 12" electric chainsaw. It was a very pleasant day.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 12/13/2014

Purpose: Attend Wilderness First Aid class

Location: Soak Ash Creek Lodge

People: Jim Foster

Summary: I drove to Soak Ash Creek, which is on the edge of the Great Smokey Mtn Natl Park, and attended a Wilderness First Aid course. My improved first aid skills could be useful on work trips, especially with sawyers. It was a good class and I picked up a lot of new information.

Reporting: John Robbins

Date: 12/14/2014

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 3b, Spring to US421

People: John Robbins

Summary: I returned to remove two larger blowdowns remaining from the last maintenance trip. I also cleared the trail of other fallen limbs. The trail now looks good.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: 12/14/2014

Purpose: Remove blowdown

Location: Section 8, Near Oliver Hollow Road along Watauga Lake

People: Bob Peoples, Jack Tarlin

Summary: Bob and Jack removed a couple of small blowdowns near Oliver Hollow Road. Blowdowns had brought down a lot of greenbrier and vines. They had insufficient Band-Aid bandages for the greenbrier skin tears.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 12/16/2014

Purpose: A.T. Biennial Task Force call

Location: Teleconference call from Raleigh

People: Steve Perri

Summary: We had our first call last night among the assigned regional reps to begin planning the 2017 biennial meeting. We are developing recommendations for how the meeting can be structured to be more aligned with ATC's new strategic plan. We basically agreed we need to conduct a survey to more fully assess what is important to members. Our major concern is that we tend to attract attendance by clubs and members interested in hikes and workshops and therefore don't get enough new members to attend. We believe there is an optimum survey length and Julie Judkins is helping to get that info. We have been asked to develop a list of potential survey questions which will then help direct some of the recommendations for changes to be considered.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 12/18/2014

Purpose: Provide input to Pisgah National Forest Plan Revision

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: On behalf of TEHCC, comments were developed and provided on the proposed Pisgah National Forest Plan Revision. The plan is divided into Management Areas with stated components for Emphasis, Desired Condition, Goals, and Standards. Input was given for those areas adjacent to the A.T. between US Hwy 19W and Elk River designated for Roan Mountain, Appalachian Trail, Forest Habitat Diversity, Restoration and Connectivity, and Backcountry. Changes in the management standards can affect such aspects as roads, timber, and utility crossings. The comments focused on protection of the natural resource and viewshed, while allowing low-impact recreation. The letter was sent to Kristin Bail, Forest Supervisor of National Forests in North Carolina.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/18/2014

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to FS Road 230

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Eric Middlemas, Joe Morris, Bob

Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, Jack Tarlin

Summary: We did some larger remaining rehabs between Indian Grave Gap and FS Rd 230. Old Timers had already done some major rehab near the gap. We removed some rooty sections, dug trail back on hill, buried roots with sidelogs, and installed some rock steps and cribbing. We cut several large dead leaners and cleaned the water diversions. This section is in reasonably good shape going into the winter.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman

Date: 12/19/2014

Purpose: Routine Maintenance and check for downed trees

Location: Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: Starting at Wilbur Dam Road, I hiked in 3.5 miles. Along the way, I cleared out two trees where the canopy had fallen across the trail, cleaned out two waterbars, and removed 50 feet of berm re-establishing the critical edge.

Reporting: John Robbins

Date: 12/20/2014

Purpose: Routine maintenance

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

People: John Robbins

Summary: I hiked toward Double Springs cutting and moving fallen trees and large branches from the trail. There are several trees that will need a chainsaw; otherwise the trail is in great shape.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 12/21/2014

Purpose: Maintain trail

Location: Sections 1, 2a, and 2b, TN/VA State Line to McQueens Gap

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: The Hike For Veterans is going great, and I crossed over into Tennessee today. I went ahead and worked my section as I hiked out of Damascus. I removed small blowdowns and obstructions from the state line to McQueens Gap. I hope that everyone is doing great!

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/22/2014

Purpose: Remove problem trees and rhodos

Location: Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats

People: "Giuseppe"

Summary: "Giuseppe," a SOBO, reported that there were some rhodos and small trees that had broken primarily on the north side of Pond Mountain. Bob Peoples put him out the next day at US 321 so he could walk that section again and clear it with loppers.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 12/22/2014

Purpose: Hang signs at RR, dismantle bootleg campfire rings, and haul out trash

Location: Section 19b, RR tracks to 0.4 mile from Nolichucky River

People: Vic and Clark Hasler

Summary: This work session had three objectives. The first was to place yellow warning signs on both sides of the CSX railroad tracks stating to not attempt to pass through or under a stopped train. The second was to dismantle some campfire rings too close to a neighborhood. Three were addressed; including minor deficiency CS000299 located 0.4 mile from the south end of the section which was flagged during the June 2013 ATC assessment. The third was to remove the last of the very old trash in the same vicinity as the CS000299 campsite. Sixteen heavy-duty grocery bags were filled with glass bottles and rusting beverage cans from the 1970s, and another two bags were filled with aluminum for recycling. The old refrigerator (see photo) was discovered to be sunk 6-8" into the forest bed. It was mostly emptied of trash and dug out with the shovel that we brought to take care of the campfire ring. However, our mutual decision was to contact the USFS to haul it out. Consolation prize was taking out two tires (from a small vehicle and tractor) which could be seen from the trail path.



Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/23/2014

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 10, Blue-Blaze Trail along Laurel Fork

People: Paul Benfield, John Botts, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, David LaPorte, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart

Summary: We continued our rehab of this bad area along Laurel Fork. We tackled the hardest part today and were able to raise the trail by over two feet by cribbing with large rocks that could be anchored on existing rocks. Then we drug in a long locust and filled with rock. Hopefully, a high stream will not wash this out. We still have a couple of days work to finish this area. Only two maintainers unintentionally went wading today.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 12/25/2014

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Bradley Gap

People: Lynn DiFiore, Lyndsey Smith, Eilidh (canine)

Summary: Annual Christmas work hike! We cut out a few blowdowns and small limbs that had fallen across the trail. We also removed a moderate quantity of trash from the barn and a large quantity from the campsites at Bradley Gap, including several large tarps, glass jars and bottles, and discarded cookware. There are signs of recent ATV use coming from Yellow Mtn and also at Bradley Gap. The Trail is in good condition despite the snowy/muddy conditions.