



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

September 2015

tehcc.org

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From the Chair

Submitted by Steve Ankabrandt

We are seeking nominees for the next two-year term of the TEHCC Steering Committee beginning in January 2016. This is your chance to help guide activities of the club and provide input on hiking/paddling initiatives and programs. The Steering Committee informally manages the TEHCC Recreation Club during lunchtime gatherings. The time commitment is not big, but the difference you can make is! Contact a current Steering Committee member if you're available.

Save the Date! November 14 – TEHCC 2015 Fall Expo

Event	Time	Details
TEHCC Fall Expo	9:00am-8:00pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport TN
Local Hike	9:00am-2:00pm	Hikes may start at various times, depending on interest.
Local Kayak/Canoe Trip	9:00am-2:00pm	Bring your kayak/canoe for a local river run.
Gear Swap	3:00pm-7:00pm	Bring gear that you no longer use and pick up the gear you now need. Buy, sell, trade, or give away.
Vendor and Outdoor Topic Displays	3:00pm-7:00pm	Various local vendors promoting gear or class offerings and displays on outdoor topics (local nature parks, Leave No Trace, Dutch Oven Cooking, e.g.)
Happy "Trails" Hour	5:00pm-6:00pm	Home-made beer
Chili Cook-off	5:30pm-7:00pm	Contestants serve chili and all attendees get to vote on their favorites. Also provided will be corn bread, cheese, dessert, and various condiments.
Fall Awards Presentation	7:00pm-8:00pm	Brief Update of club activities Recognition of ATC personnel Chili Cook-off Awards

We currently have Mahoney's, Bass Pro Shop, and Bays Mountain Park planning to provide displays.

We still need to have several more chili cooks for our competition! Cooks will get a reduced entry fee of \$2 compared to the \$10 entry fee. Please contact Steve Ankabrandt (chair@tehcc.org), if you are interested in bringing some chili.

Updates to the Trail Wiki

Tim Schaefer reporting

A server upgrade finally forced something that I've been putting off, upgrading the software engine that runs our trail wiki site. The biggest impact was having to change the software that runs the embedded maps. Conversion of the wiki markup is still ongoing at this time so you might see some non-working maps. The new mapping software adds new functionality that will be explored over time. Most notable is the automatic pin grouping seen on the trail map. Click on a cluster to automatically zoom in and see the individual pins. Also with this upgrade comes a new functionality for the wiki to better "understand" the data within. This will allow changes and updates across the system to be more seamless as data will be duplicated less often and referenced instead. For the casual user, I hope this leads to better trail searching capabilities (e.g. show me all trails and hike plans, less than 5 miles, that allow dogs and not bikes, have views of a waterfall, and are less than 25 miles from Kingsport). Be on the lookout for new features and if you're interested in contributing in any way, please let me know.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Christopher Pearce

Andrew Farmer

Seth Walters

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Sept 18-20	French Broad Campout	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
Sept 19	3rd Saturday Hiking With Tools	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
Sept 19	APes Lower Gauley Trip	Wesley Bradley	423-647-1321
Sept 22	TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting	Steve Ankabrandt	423-229-2657
Sept. 26	F/B: A.T. - Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot	Mike Watts	423-963-1593

Standard Hike Information

Hikes leaving from "Colonial Heights" gather 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. "Gate City" spot is up on the hill above US 23 at Kane Street intersection (traffic light) by Food Lion. All hikes will leave promptly to stay on schedule. Carpooling is encouraged with passengers providing a few dollars each towards gas. Bring adequate water, snack/lunch, clothing appropriate for the weather, comfortable footwear, headgear/sun protection, 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 the 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 for 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

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 Wesley 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](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 summer months, the outdoor pool is closed off to the public and available specifically for kayaker use with occasional opportunities to play in the lazy river. 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](mailto:George.Mauger@tehcc.org) (864-414-0296). For additional event details, click [here](#).

Thursday Evenings During the Summer: Paddle to the Grill, 6:30 pm

Contact: [Debbie Briscoe](mailto:Debbie.Briscoe@tehcc.org), 423-534-3636

Bring your touring kayak or canoe to meet with the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (www.riverapes.org) and TEHCC. Meet at 6:30 at Boonedocks Restaurant, Boone Lake Marina, 452 Sportsman Dock Rd, Piney Flats. We will launch by 7:00 pm to paddle the 3 miles (which takes about an hour) to Davis Marina (641 Buffalo Rd, Blountville), have dinner and social time, then paddle back by moonlight! As we may be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat, and PFDs are mandatory. For more information, contact Debbie Briscoe.

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 waterbars and painting blazes. All tools will be furnished and no prior experience required! Contact [Kim](mailto:Kim.Peters@tehcc.org) for details and meeting time and place.

Scheduled Events

French Broad Campout, Hot Springs, NC, September 18 – 20, 2015

Contact: [Debbie Briscoe](mailto:Debbie.Briscoe@tehcc.org), 423-534-3636

The French Broad is a beautiful river to camp by and a fun river to paddle. If you've been paddling the Lower Watauga and Nolichucky and want to step up a bit, this trip is for you! Section 9 is class II-III with warmer water than the Watauga and more ledges to play on and bigger waves than the Nolichucky. It also has a Class III called The Big Pillow that we will scout first.

Friday Night: For just the girls (sorry guys, girls only) I am reserving a natural mineral springs jacuzzi at the Hot Springs Spa that is across the street from the campground. If you have never experienced natural mineral waters, this is a treat! Please let me know if you are coming and how many by September 9 so I can make the spa reservation. The cost is \$35.00 for 1-3 persons, \$45 for Deluxe Tubs (4, 5, and 6); there will be an additional charge of \$10.00 per person for over four people. <http://nchotsprings.com/nc-hot-springs-spa-services/> For those not going to the spa, some folks will be going into town to the Tavern for dinner.

Saturday: In the morning, there will be a group breakfast! Saturday at 12:00 noon, we will meet at Stack House to set shuttle and run the river from Walnut to Stack House.

Saturday Night: After the paddle, there will be a hot dog supper* and a raffle for hammock and camping related gear. Tickets will be for sale and raffle donations will be accepted but are not mandatory.

*To contribute to the hot dog supper/and Saturday breakfast, please sign up on the Food Spreadsheet: [click here](#)

This event is held every year by the hammock camping group and for the last few years I have offered a river trip along with it to make it a really fun event! For camping or cabins: <http://nchotsprings.com/nc-hot-springs-resort-lodging/>

For map and directions: <http://nchotsprings.com/nc-hot-springs-contact/>

APes Lower Gauley Trip, Summersville, WV, Saturday, September 19, 2015

Contact: [Wesley Bradley](mailto:Wesley.Bradley@tehcc.org), 423-647-1321

Join the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts on Gauley Fest Weekend for a paddling trip on the Lower Gauley! We will put-in at Woods Ferry and take-out at Swiss. This trip is a Class III-IV(V) section of BIG WATER on the Gauley River near Summersville, West Virginia. If you've paddled and enjoyed the Ocoee River, this is the trip for you! The Lower Gauley is a 10+ mile trip full of play waves and large wave trains. Gauley first timers are welcome, but paddlers must have class III experience and own all gear including whitewater craft, helmet, paddle, and Type 3 or better PFD. If you'd like to join the trip or want more information please contact Wesley Bradley at 423-647-1321.

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, Tuesday, September 22, 2015, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

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.

F/B: A.T. – Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot, Saturday, September 26, 2015

Leader: Mike Watts, 423-963-1593

Rating: Moderate per TEHCC, Moderate-to-strenuous per ATC for 4.6-mile round trip, 1000' elevation gain

This Saturday event is planned to participate in the ATC's [Family Hiking Day](#). Beauty Spot is a natural grassy bald (4,437') with excellent views of the Roan and Black Mountains. The overlook was recently improved by the Cherokee National Forest Hotshots ([June newsletter](#)) who removed some of the trees which had grown up over the years. Let's leave Colonial Heights, TN at 9 am to meet at Indian Grave Gap around 10 am. Bring plenty of water, comfortable footwear, appropriate clothing/sun protection, and lunch. The hike itself will take roughly three and a half hours depending on how much lunch/sightseeing time is desired on the bald. For further information, check the [trail wiki](#) or call the hike leader.

For the Record

Steele Creek Park Loop, Sunday, August 16, 2015

Tim Schaefer reporting

We arrived at this Bristol gem and paid our \$2 entry fee. After some discussion we decided to do a loop taking Lake Ridge Trail, with a diversion on the Overlook Trail, cross over on High Ridge Trail, and returning on Cross Ridge Trail and Hemlock Hollow Trail. This was likely around two miles, but the steepness of the first half got people questioning my trip planning adequacy. After the trail leveled off spirits returned and fun was resumed by all. Hikers for this outing were the Schaefer family and Denise Hardin and her two friends Seth and Anna.

Bays Mountain Park – Lake Road/Chinquapin Trail, Sunday, August 23, 2015

Vic Hasler reporting

A large group enjoyed the long loop walk and lots of conversation around the city park on a sunny afternoon. Three Boy Scouts from Troop 48 completed the map and compass hike requirement for Second Class rank. Another scout wore a loaded backpack to learn how to adjust the straps. Participants were Jeff Baker, Jennifer, Laura, Nathan and Russ Davis, Thomas and Vincent Gould, Joshua and Caleb Graham, Vic Hasler, Easton Keeton, Destiny and Danielle Ledoux, Luke and Tina Peters, Jordan and Mary Reed, Celeb, Ginny, Matthew and Samuel Tallent, Joshua and Julieann White, and Yuyan Zimmerman.



At the Bays Mountain Park dam →
(Photo by Thomas Gould)



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/29/2015

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds at the camping area at the Overmountain Shelter We also trimmed weeds around the shelter and trails as needed, and picked up trash. The water is running good.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/29/2015

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds as needed on the A.T. Accessible Trail.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 7/29/2015

Purpose: Check for blowdowns

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

People: Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: Bruce and I found five blowdowns, three of which we were able to clear and two we weren't. The three that we cleared were pretty big in volume, not diameter, and we were able to cut off enough limbs to clear the trail. The two we left will need a chain saw to clear; they are not completely blocking the trail though. We found the trail to be in good shape otherwise.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/30/2015

Purpose: Rehab and relocate Trail

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Old Road

People: Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Benjamin Jack, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We continued prepping for Watauga College. The crew completed installing a bog bridge on the relo. Several worked on trail rehab on the old-road steep climb by installing water dips and several waterbars and steps. We also cut more steps and stakes for future rehab plus what the students will rehab. This might be one of the first outings this year that we did not encounter hikers.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 8/1/2015

Purpose: Put up signs and fix rut

Location: Section 15a, Near Carvers Gap

People: Allyson Ross, Joe DeLoach

Summary: We installed a new mileage sign for distances Trail south of Carvers Gap on a post installed by the Cherokee National Forest. This post has a "Foot Travel Only" sign. An older sign nailed to a tree, headed into the woods from Carvers Gap, was removed. Metal diamond water signs were installed that point out the good spring just south of Carvers Gap. Then heading up Round Bald, we repaired a couple of holes dug into the gravel by an ATV after a recent rescue from Grassy Ridge. We clipped a few briars along the way and redistributed some gravel across some of the waterbars and check dams.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 8/3/2015

Purpose: Clear undergrowth

Location: Section 20a, Near Temple Hill Gap

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I used a string trimmer to clear about one mile of trailside undergrowth, and also cleaned out turnouts.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 8/7/2015

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 13, About 3/4 mile below Doll Flats

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Becky Kinder, Greg Kramer, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Gayle Riddervold, Kevin Sedgwick, George Thorpe

Summary: We cut some weeds and did a lot of preparation for some major rehab with Wright State University students. We plan to bury a very rooty section of several hundred feet, as well as rearrange some rocks in a rock field where it is difficult to walk. We added some log steps today and back filled them.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 8/8/2015

Purpose: Replace bridge lathe

Location: Section 19b, Third bridge north of Nolichucky River

People: Burts Compton, Charlie Compton, Sam Compton, Carl Fritz

Summary: Burts, Sam, and Charlie volunteered and installed the heavy duty lathe on the third bridge north of the Nolichucky River. The Trail was in good shape. A north bound hiker reported a large blowdown in Temple Hill Gap.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 8/9/2015

Purpose: Clear trailside undergrowth

Location: Section 20a, Near Nolichucky River

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I cleared undergrowth with a string trimmer from the road to the north end of switchback #2 (about 1 mile). I ran into some ground wasps and got a dozen stings.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 8/9/2015

Purpose: Section maintenance

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Roan High Knob Shelter side trail

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I cut briars, clipped annual growth from trees, and cut several blowdowns. The trail is clear.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 8/10/2015

Purpose: Clear blowdown

Location: Section 20a, A few hundred yards north of Temple Hill Gap

People: Craig Haire, Helga Maria Mitchell, Duchess Vixen (canine companion)

Summary: On this very hot August day, a messy blowdown tangle that blocked the trail completely was cleared without much trouble. We ran into two northbound ladies who thanked us for our work.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 8/10/2015

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the campground and around the shelter and trails as needed at Overmountain Shelter. We also picked up trash.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 8/10/2015

Purpose: Mow Trails

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the Accessible and Appalachian Trail. Everything looks good.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 8/12/2015

Purpose: Inspect Berry Fields

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

People: Carl Fritz

Summary: Clifton Avery from ATC SORO and I inspected the Berry Fields. We think the only incentive to keep the area open is for the view which primarily is of Shady Valley and Iron Mountain. Unfortunately, we were in clouds today and had very limited views. Probably we will abandon the small open area. The larger field we may be able to reduce in half and still maintain the views. We will determine if USFS would entertain doing a burn to get the undergrowth under control. Perhaps in late fall or early winter TEHCC can do some clearing.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 8/13/2015

Purpose: Review of Roan Ridgerunner season

Location: Appalachian Ranger District office, Mars Hill, NC

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: This was the third season of having a ridgerunner, aka naturalist, provide a presence to visitors on the Appalachian Trail in the Roan Highlands. Lee Farese did an excellent job as reinforced during this end-of-season review. Lee started on Memorial Day weekend; his last weekend was August 14-17. During that time he encountered thousands of hikers ranging from day hikers, student groups, backpackers (both short duration and thru-hikers), and people just strolling on the balds. This year the ridgerunner was employed by the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC), and Lee's weekend days of interfacing with hikers were balanced by stewardship on the weekdays. This balance helped mitigate the burnout from protracted user contacts only, as has been the case the previous two years. Lee also went by "Roan Naturalist" instead of "Roan Ridgerunner," and that seemed to really help with engagement and acceptance by the users. The Pisgah and Cherokee National Forests, ATC, SAHC, and TEHCC were represented

at the meeting and all agreed that the program should continue. Possible alterations include an earlier start rather than Week 1 being the very busy and difficult Memorial Day weekend, a midseason week off, better training with enhanced participation by the partners, more reference materials, and possible augmentation with volunteers during the busiest times and with large groups. The kiosk under construction at Carvers Gap will help.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 8/14/2015

Purpose: Relocation and rehab

Location: Section 5, 1/4 to 1/2 mile south of TN 91

People: TEHCC: Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Robin Dean, Carl Fritz, Danny Harper, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, George Thorpe; plus 128 representing Watauga Global Community from Appalachian State University. 103 were freshmen, about 15 were upper classmen, and about 10 were faculty and some of their children

Summary: This was the 15th year that Watauga Global Community of Appalachian State University has worked on the trail with us as an orientation service project for their freshmen students. This year, two-thirds of all the ASU folks were female. We had great weather and a great outing. The students were willing workers and learned much about being in the woods and building trail. For many, it was their first time on the Appalachian Trail. We were able to open a 1000-foot trail relocation and rehabbed many feet of trail by installing some water diversions and a lot of locust steps. ASU even provided some watermelon at the end of the day during a closing ceremony. Thanks go to the many club volunteers and Chris Binder from ATC SORO who insured that this major event was successful and memorable for the students!

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 8/15/2015

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and install sign at Jones Falls

Location: Section 12c, Sugar Hollow Creek to Campbell Hollow Road

People: Kayla Carter, Joe DeLoach, Kim Peters, Ken Murray, Lori Mirrer

Summary: What another fine 3rd-Saturday trip! The weather was perfect and the afternoon thunderstorms never appeared eventhough we heard some pretty intense thunder as we got back to the cars. The tasks for the day were to clear some reported blowdowns and to install a new sign at the junction to the Jones Falls side trail. We split into two groups; some went in from Campbell Hollow Road and some accessed the trail from Elk River Falls Recreation Area. Each group cleared blowdowns, whacked weeds and lopped rhododendrons until we met up at the trail to the falls in time for lunch. After lunch we installed the new sign and then hiked back out to the cars. Many thanks to all participants especially Lori who once again drove all the way from Charlotte to help us out on the trail. (Photos by Kim Peters)



l to r: Joe DeLoach, Kayla Carter and Ken Murray



Kayla setting the sign post

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 8/15/2015

Purpose: Trim back summer growth and check shelter

Location: Section 19b, Nolichucky River Outfitters to shelter - and river to Unaka Springs overlook

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: I trimmed back the summer growth from the outfitters to the shelter – and from the river to the Unaka Springs overlook.

The deep haircut given this trail section back in the fall and winter really helped to keep the path open. I mostly used a swing blade to address stinging nettle, briars, and dog hobble in places. An older/heavy cordless drill was packed in to set several screws into the newly installed lathe on the third bridge. Curley Maple Gap shelter was in good condition, but not the two shovels, both of which had broken handles. I used one shovel head to clean the fire pit. The nearby water source was flowing slowly. I packed out trash, including jelly, catsup, and water bottles. Someone is providing logbooks. I hauled out the filled Nov 2014 to July 2015 and an extra. I met a family who was packing out more trash from the shelter as referenced in the logbook, so gave them a Trail Karma pendant. Three fire circles have been established, while 4 or 5 have not returned. From the upcoming movie release, Katz must have visited the area, as a partially consumed whole ham was discovered along Jones Branch under a tree. The kiosk at Noli Bridge has been built, but no display installed yet. Finally, I learned that I am not a five-tool player, as I packed too much weight with a couple never even used; thus I should only carry a couple to focus more on fewer tasks each trip.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 8/16/2015

Purpose: Paint blazes, clean waterbars, and lop briars

Location: Section 2b, McQueen's Gap to Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Jill and Steve Wilson

Summary: We painted blazes, cleaned waterbars, and lopped briars on a beautiful summer day. The Abingdon Gap Shelter is in good shape with a useful broom and shovel. Note that there is a high amount of graffiti on the walls, so it would be good to repaint it is some time. We found a blowdown about a half-mile in from McQueen's Gap. The 12" tree is leaning across the trail and requires hikers to remove their backpacks to crawl under it. We plan to go back and cut it within the next two weeks.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 8/16/2015

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to No Business Knob Shelter

People: Ken Murray

Summary: I used a swing blade on annual vegetation and a silky saw on one blowdown. Some kind soul had previously removed three other blowdowns.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 8/17/2015

Purpose: Shelter Maintenance

Location: Section 20b, Devils Gap to No Business Knob Shelter

People: Ken Murray, Lotta Murray

Summary: We removed trash from the area in and around the shelter.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 8/17/2015

Purpose: Clear blowdown

Location: Section 8, Forest Service gate to Watauga Shelter

People: Brian Paley

Summary: I cleared branches (mainly Rhododendron) that were partially blocking the trail. I also cut weeds and lopped the trail from the Forest Service gate to the Watauga Lake shelter.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 8/20/2015

Purpose: Complete rehab and relocation

Location: Section 5, Up to 0.5 miles south of TN 91

People: Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Danny Harper, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We did some finish work on the relocation opened last week, and finished installing steps closer to TN91. We have completed our planned work near TN 91 except for rehabbing the old steep road. In spite of the showers forecasted, we did not get rained upon.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 8/22/2015

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and lop briars

Location: Section 2b, McQueen's Gap to Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Jill and Steve Wilson

Summary: This trip was to clear the 12" blowdown that required hikers to remove their backpacks and crawl under. Using a chainsaw, we cut it and also three hazard trees to make the trip worthwhile. It was a beautiful morning to be in the woods, and the contrast to the crowds attending the Bristol race made it especially sweet. This trail section is in good shape.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 8/25/2015

Purpose: A.T. Maintenance with Wright State Students

Location: Section 13, North of Doll Flats

People: Bob Peoples, Seiko, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Ken Buchanan, Kevin Sedgwick, Joe Morris, Brian Paley, Tim Stewart, Ted Mowery, George Thorpe, Jean Paul Soto, Matthew Miller, Erin Halloran, Erica Kilbourne, Alessandra, Sarah Christy, Greg Gammon, Charles Baron, Jacob Reynolds, Brooke Waterman, Grayson Dabanowich, Hannah Seabrook, Lydia Patchett, Alexis Melvin, Caleb Miller, Andrew Stevenson, Derek Manger, Juan Munoz, Graham Weaver, James Wright, Samantha Conner, Trisha, Megan Wertz

Summary: Students from Wright State University joined us for some trail work north of Doll Flats. We rehabbed approximately 414 feet of existing trail which included about 54 feet of a rock field. (Photos by Ken Buchanan)



One 40-foot section, Before...



During, and...



After rehab