



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

October 2015

tehcc.org

In this Issue

[November 14 - TEHCC 2015 Fall Expo](#)

[TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)

[Trail Wiki Update](#)

[Event Schedule – Next Two Months](#)

[Trail Wiki Feature of the Month](#)

[Details of Upcoming Events](#)

[Watauga Ranger District Recognizes Volunteers](#)

[For the Record](#)

[Appalachian Trail Conservancy Redesigns Website](#)

[A.T. Maintenance Reports](#)

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, Mountain Sports, Bass Pro Shop, Cabela’s** and **Bays Mountain Park** interested in participating. **We still need to have several more chili cooks for our competition!** Cooks will get the EXPO entry fee waived.

Please fill out the [registration](#) form in this Newsletter if you plan to attend and contact Steve Ankabrandt (chair@tehcc.org) if you are interested in bringing some chili.

Trail Wiki Update

Tim Schaefer reporting

After another month of furious plumbing work on our trail wiki, we have some new content. My ultimate goal is to make it easier to find trails based on your criteria. I believe we're getting close.

Essentially, information can now be "tagged" on the pages. For example, we can tag that the hike time is 5 hrs. Then hopefully in the future, we can have a search that allows you to find that hike if you're interested in a 4 to 6 hour hike. I've had a lot of internal debates on what to tag before reworking each trail page, but I think I have a good list. Work is now needed to convert each trail page to use the new format. Until that work is complete, you might see some errors on the trail pages.

I've also started Park pages with their own info box on the right. My plan is to better document the amenities of parks to help you plan trips to parks for either weekend camping or a day of fun with family. See Roan Mountain State Park as an example of what I am working towards.

As for content updates, following a 3-day weekend camping trip, there have been significant updates to the Roan Mountain State Park site and its 11 trails. Also based on recent hikes, look for updates to Squibb Creek Falls and Sills Branch Falls.

As always, I welcome others to contribute to the wiki and welcome any other form of assistance. Help can come in any form, anything from detailed site editing to calling me on the phone and telling me to make some changes. If you're interested in helping, please contact me.

Trail Wiki Feature of the Month

Tim Schaefer reporting

I am trying a new segment which may serve a few purposes. Each month I will try to highlight either a park or a trail on our wiki and relay the information we have within. Hopefully you'll learn something that may inspire you to visit. Maybe you'll notice something that I'm missing and offer updates, photos, or descriptions. Or maybe you'll be encouraged to start checking out the wiki and, if I'm really lucky, start contributing and editing. We have a lot of great trails in our area and it's a lot of work to document them all, even with Vic Hasler's help. Currently our site lists 169 trails and growing!

Roan Mountain State Park is a 2,006-acre state park operated by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation that is just over an hour drive from downtown Kingsport. It has 11 official trails with a total of 12.8 miles of hiking. There are no day use fees for hiking.



Onsite amenities include lodging in cabins, RV sites, and tent only campsites including group campsites. The lower RV sites now include Wi-Fi, although on my recent visit I had trouble getting online. I didn't care enough to ask a ranger if I was doing something wrong. Other site amenities include a volleyball court, tennis courts, amphitheater, and apparently the highest elevation of a state park pool in Tennessee (that's a lot of qualifications!). There are also pavilions and a modern conference center available with advance reservations.

Two historical artifacts of interest are the Miller homestead on Strawberry Bald and the Peg Leg Mine. The Miller homestead was built over 100 years ago and was occupied until the 1960's without electricity or running water. While you can visit the homestead any time of year until 5pm when the gates are promptly locked, the house is open for tours Wed-Sun 9am-5pm, Memorial day through Labor Day. The Peg Leg Mine, located just behind the visitors center, mined iron ore, and up until the last few years you could walk down to the mine and go on guided tours.

The trails overall are good. A lot of them stay fairly close to TN 143 making it hard to get away from the road noise. The one exception is Chestnut Ridge Trail. It's a splendid ridge trail, but it suffers the classic problem of trails in Appalachia. You are teased by majestic views that are blocked by tree foliage. A winter trip after the leaves have fallen may fix that problem. The one spot offering a lookout from the trail is Raven Rock Trail.

Throughout the year, the park hosts several events, including naturalist ralleys, folk life and fall harvest festivals at the homestead, and the popular rhododendron festival in late June.

As I have done for years, most people drive through this park on their way to Carvers Gap. If you have the time, stop and look around. You just may find more than you expected and decide the trip up to Carvers Gap can wait until some other time.



Watauga Ranger District Recognizes A.T. Maintenance Volunteers

Carl Fritz reporting

The Watauga Ranger District of U.S. Forest Service had a picnic for volunteers which coincided with a TEHCC maintenance trip (see Richard Carter's Maintenance Report for 9/24). The Forest Service has many volunteers associated with their campgrounds, etc; so there were many good tales from them as well as from trail maintainers. During his lunch hour, Reuben Potter carved a special trophy for TEHCC with his chainsaw. Notice the little chainsaw in the top of the trophy. Fun was had by all.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy Redesigns Website

Vic Hasler reporting

ATC has launched a redesign of its website appalachiantrail.org with fresh visual content. A new feature is real-time photos from the Trail streamed to the site using the hashtag #AT2015. Thus you can view the current experience along its length. The toolkit and other trail management features continue to be available for reference.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Rebecca Currie
Laura Mounger

Rex Chatman
Yan Wang

Robert Mynhier
Donna Bays

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Oct 3	Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846
Oct 11	F/B: A.T.: Fall Colors at Osborne Farm	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
Oct 17	3rd Saturday Hiking With Tools	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
Oct 19	TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting	Steve Ankabrandt	423-229-2657
Nov 6	F/B: Warrior's Path State Park – Boneyard Trail	Carrie Schaefer	423-408-2846
Nov 14	TEHCC Expo Hike – Bays Mountain State Park	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846
Nov 14	TEHCC Expo Hike – Lakeside Trail	Carrie Schaefer	423-408-2846
Nov 27	Warrior's Path State Park – Sinking Waters	Carrie Schaefer	423-408-2846

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](mailto:Wesley.R.Bradley@tehcc.org), 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](mailto:Wesley.R.Bradley@tehcc.org). 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](mailto:Carl.Fritz@tehcc.org), 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](#).

3rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!

Contact: [Kim Peters](mailto:Kim.Peters@tehcc.org), 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

Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower, Saturday, October 3, 2015

Leader: [Tim Schaefer](mailto:Tim.Schaefer@tehcc.org), 423-302-0846

I have some time for an extended hike on this day. I'm looking for a 7 to 15-mile hike starting early on Saturday. I can leave as the group dictates, but would like to start driving by 8 am. I'm targeting a hike to Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower near Erwin but I'm open to suggestions or may consider other trails between then and now. Contact Tim Schaefer for coordination time, location, or alternate suggestions.

F/B: A.T.: Fall Colors at Osborne Farm, Sunday, October 11, 2014

Leader: [Vic Hasler](mailto:Vic.Hasler@tehcc.org), 423-239-0388

This Sunday afternoon hike features the Osborne Farm tract with views of Shady Valley and Mt. Rogers area in Virginia. We'll go roughly one mile to the far end of the property on the handicap accessible trail – and then maybe into the woods if folks want to crunch some leaves before returning to the parking lot. Meet at 1 pm in Colonial Heights for just over an hour drive. We'll wander the trail to take in the fall colors, and then plan to be back in Kingsport by dinner.

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, Tuesday, October 19, 2015, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Contact: [Steve Ankabrandt](mailto:Steve.Ankabrandt@tehcc.org), 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.

For the Record

Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot, Saturday, September 26, 2015

Michael Watts Reporting

With the arrival of autumn, we enjoyed the beginnings of fall colors. While the vistas at Beauty Spot were obscured by clouds, the mist added character to the hike. And even a light rain during the return to Indian Grave Gap did not dampen the enthusiasm of our hikers. Participants were Steve Ankabrandt, Denise Hardin, and Michael Watts.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Dan Firth

Dates: 7/25/2015, 7/26/2015, 8/2/2015

Purpose: Monitor rare plants

Location: Sections 12c and 13, Sugar Hollow Creek to Campbell Hollow Road, and US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Dan Firth

Summary: I monitored a rare plant population.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 8/27/2015

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds along the trail across the Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 8/27/2015

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the campground and trimmed weeds along the trails as needed. The water running good. One end of the chain on the gate to the shelter was not locked. The shelter and campground were very clean.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 8/27/2015

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Sections 12b and 12c, Between Walnut Mountain Road and Campbell Hollow Road

People: Brian Paley, Kevin Sedgwick

Summary: We cleared blowdowns at two sites and cleared trail hazards at three additional sites.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 8/28/2015

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

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

People: Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Lana Scott, Wayne Jones

Summary: We removed four trees and tree tops from the trail, lopped overhanging branches, removed small limbs from the trail, and picked up trash at the campsites. The trail through the orchard area near Weedy Gap needs mowing, which we hope to do soon.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 8/28/2015

Purpose: Check trail for fall mowing

Location: Section 18, Deep Gap to Beauty Spot

People: Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We mowed a short section of the A.T. in Deep Gap and the trail to the spring. We also mowed the trail to the spring just north of Beauty Spot. We picked up trash at both locations. The Deep Gap spring was running good, but the Beauty Spot spring was at a trickle. Beauty Spot Gap open area needs mowing now. Beauty Spot had been completely mowed. We touched up a couple of areas along the trail at the north end of Beauty Spot and spotted locations for two blaze posts.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 8/28/2015

Purpose: Summer Mowing

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap south about 1/2 mile

People: Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We mowed about ½ mile of trail south of Iron Mountain Gap, removed small limbs from the trail, and picked up trash at the trail head.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 8/28/2015

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

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

People: John Tomko, Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: We removed two large blowdowns (the old fashion way) and did some other general maintenance along the trail from Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap. We also delivered a new shovel to the shelter (hope it will still be there come spring). The trail is in good shape and free of obstructions.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 8/31/2015

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We hiked about half of the trail today to inspect the waterbars and do some weeding. There were a few beer cans scattered near the trail head. After the first bridge, we picked up a bunch of trash someone had left at the fire pit. We whacked a bunch of weeds by the stream; some of the weeds were obstructing the trail. After we cleared the obstruction, we discovered a big blowdown. Becky cut a few of the branches so hikers could either walk over or around it. Because the tree is so big, we were not able to move it. It will require a chainsaw. We saw a southbound hiker at the campground. Everything was clean there. Becky also cut a small tree that would have eventually fallen into the trail.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 9/1/2015

Purpose: TEHCC A.T. Committee Meeting

Location: Eastman Employee Center

People: Ed Oliver, Tim Steward, Carl Fritz, Kim Peters, Steve Wilson, Mike Hupko, Vic Hasler, Eric Middlemas, Jim Foster, Ted Mowery, Paul Benfield and Steve Perri (by phone)

Summary: The TEHCC A.T. Committee met to discuss a myriad of topics. No bear encounters have been reported since June. USFS needs to be asked about policy regarding a loose hunting dog on the trail. A hiker called the number on its radio collar to learn the owner was on the other side of Sullivan County. Reuben Potter (USFS) is out west fighting forest fires.

Students receiving Tennessee Promise scholarships need eight hours of community service per term (first due by 8/1/2016). Thus, a partnership could be arranged, such as discussed with a teacher at Daniel Boone High School. "A Walk in the Woods" movie is opening September 2. After the meeting, I found that Carmike 14 in Johnson City and Cinemark Tinseltown USA in Bristol are showing the film.

The relocation and rehab south of TN 91 was successfully completed with ASU Watauga College who would like to continue the partnership. USFS Watauga Ranger District is interested in having the student group work on other trails; TEHCC might need to assist. Similar to Hard Core moving to the MRATC section, TEHCC will want to revisit the club's approach to non-A.T. work.

There's been no word on a TN license plate (LP) grant for shelter repair. If funds are provided in 2015, an extension will be requested for 2016 since only a few purchases could be made this late in the year. With wood handles disappearing on shovels at several shelters, the committee agreed to switch to fiberglass handles at specific places.

The committee discussed the following changes and updates to our capital plans, which will be reviewed with ATC on October 7. Little Rock Knob was done in 2014 and Cross Mountain in 2015 with ASU assistance. Rehab Doll Flats to Hump (2015) has some remaining work right at Hump Mtn. Relocation at Turkey Pen Gap has not yet been opened – short by 20' on both ends (some through poison ivy). Concern expressed that SAWS groups has not performed any maintenance on Section 6, Iron Mountain Shelter to Vandeventer Shelter, in 2015. TEHCC will open this relocation during winter if not completed before that. Six projects at shelters are pending the receipt of TN LP funding. Old Ridge Rd (2016) has been flagged and is being planned for work with ASU. Club resources would handle Deep Gap (2016), Shook Branch Bridge (2016) and Wilder Mine Bridge (2017). Projects with Konnarock Crew are currently on hold until 2018 continuing work on Backbone Rock, 2019 Atwood Property (US 321 crossing), and 2020/2021 South of Greasy Creek Gap. Accessible Trail at Osborne Farm will be a new and wider surface constructed (backhoe) by contractor - does not involve club resources. New items for capital plan would be replacing Cherry Gap Shelter in 2018 and No Business Knob Shelter in 2020. Repairing or replacing Laurel Fork Bridges and relocating steep, eroded trail North of Temple Hill Gap were not assigned a target date or resources at this time.

TEHCC has been assigned Oct 9 - 30 for Trail Asset Inventory with proposal to cover Sections 10-15b (Hampton to Hughes Gap). We'll start with training in Dennis Cove in order to have a variety of features (shelter, bridges, steps, trailhead). The committee has several questions about expectations that will be asked of ATC – and CMC who is the first club in SORO performing this task.

Topics were reviewed for October 7 partnership meeting (Mars Hill) and SORO on October 17.

Division of TEHCC A.T. Project Coordinator duties was discussed after Carl outlined evolution of the current situation. Since his retirement from Eastman in 2001, the position has accumulated duties: tool shed built in 2004, chainsaw, Konnarock, etc. Other factors have been: more people participating weekly (12-16) which means more tools to have ready; hard hats are now required; SORO ATC has grown from two to six staff to have more initiatives, such as A.T. communities, invasives removal, and trail assessment/inventory. The basic need is to unbundle the position to return it to a basic coordinator role. A.T. committee members nominate new members to the committee, which allows for some recognition of a person's commitment and interest prior to becoming involved in committee details. Current distribution list can be modified to invite other interested folks. The committee noted that several pieces can be broken out. Recommendation was to create short job descriptions to inform and recruit those who don't want to "dig dirt" but are willing to help elsewhere. The group talked about storing extra tools needed for large events in B-310 if bins were provided, while other tools could be transferred to others, if TEHCC events will only have 50 folks maximum in the future.

Revisions to the 14th Edition TN-NC ATC Guidebook are now being gathered. Electronic copies of the text file will be distributed for more comments – from point of view of a hiker. Goal is to have first draft by November, final in January 2016 for subsequent publication. Two kiosks have been recently installed at Carvers Gap and Nolichucky Bridge.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 9/2/2015

Purpose: Fall Maintenance

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

People: Eric Middlemas, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We mowed and lopped in Beauty Spot Gap, and painted blazes and lopped from Beauty Spot to FS230. We cut a 5 inch tree from across the trail near Indian Grave Gap, picked up trash, and inspected trail for future fall maintenance.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/3/2015

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 13, About one mile north of Doll Flats

People: Richard Carter, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, George Thorpe

Summary: We continued to rehab rooty trail by installing log or rock cribbing and filling with rock and soil. There were five backpackers or day hikers out today.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 9/6/2015

Purpose: Clean waterbars and rehab

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Hack Line

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I cleaned waterbars and other water diversions between Carvers Gap and the Hack Line. I reset wood boxes to raise hikers above wet areas, drove stakes back in for some steps, leveled one of the bog bridges, cut some roots, blocked where a sharp turn is being cut, and performed some rehab.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/6/2015

Purpose: Clean and repair hard hats and tools

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Carl Fritz, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: Marsha and Mike cleaned, disinfected and returned hard hats from Wright State University outing. Carl cleaned, repaired and stored hand tools.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman

Date: 9/7/2015

Purpose: Assess sections for maintenance needs and downed trees

Location: Sections 5, 6, and 7, Wilbur Dam Road to TN 91

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: I travelled trail North from Wilbur Dam Road to TN 91 checking for downed trees and other maintenance needs. There was word that there were some blowdowns. I sent a report to SAWS (Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards); the organization is planning a work trip in the near future to do the needed maintenance.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 9/7/2015

Purpose: Clear trailside overgrowth

Location: Section 20a, near Nolichucky River

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I cleared trailside undergrowth from switchbacks 2, 3, 4 and 5. I met 8 dayhikers.

Reporting: Pat Loven

Date: 9/8/2015

Purpose: Invasive plant control

Location: Section 11a, Canute Place

People: Ken Buchanan, Pat Loven, Clifton Avery

Summary: We traveled to Canute Place, accompanied by Clifton Avery from the Asheville ATC office and Skeeter and Perry from the USFS Work Center at Rat Branch. Objectives were to address the invasive oriental bittersweet around the campsite and also mow the meadow. Using a bushhog-equipped John Deere tractor, swing blades, clippers, and herbicide spray, we were able to cut and spray most all the oriental bittersweet in the area of the campsite and trail. The field was also completely mowed. At the end of the day, Canute Place looked great!

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/10/2015

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 5, About two miles south of TN 91

People: Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We continued rehab on the steep road by adding more water diversions and steps. We met a couple from Australia hiking for a few days on the A.T.

Reporting: Bill Fuller

Date: 9/14/2015

Purpose: Clear blowdowns, cut brush, scout trail

Location: Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats

People: Bill Fuller

Summary: I scouted the whole section up to Pond Flats, clearing two small and two medium sized blowdowns. I also cut back a lot of overhanging brush and rhododendrons along the way. The trail is in good shape. The spring at Pond Flats is bone dry.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/15/2015

Purpose: GPS and inspect trail

Location: Sections 5, 6, and 7, TN 91 to Wilbur Dam Road

People: Jim Foster, Carl Fritz

Summary: We hiked from TN 91 to Wilbur Dam Road. We captured the whole trail on GPS, including the relocations on Cross Mountain and at Turkey Pen Gap. Several areas were identified for rehab. The worst is the trail north approach to the Iron Mountain Shelter spring. It is a huge ditch that is eroding significantly. The spring on Cross Mountain is good. Most of the springs on Iron Mtn are dry or almost dry. We pity the hikers who make the effort to get water at Vandeventer Shelter. Weeds were a problem north of Vandeventer. The biggest problem in that area is the brush and rhododendron growth on uphill side which is pushing hikers off trail. Blowdowns were not a problem. There are about a dozen stepovers on Section 6. We did cut one 9" locust blowdown that was an awkward and high stepover. It was a fantastic day for a hike.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 9/15/2015

Purpose: Upgrade spring

Location: Section 17, Cherry Gap to Cherry Gap Shelter

People: Eric Middlemas, Mike Hupko

Summary: We installed a collector basin and pipe at the first spring at the Cherry Gap Shelter. We now have two piped springs at the shelter. The first spring is now usable as a water source and is producing about twice as much water as the second spring. We picked up trash at the shelter and left a new log book. We painted blazes from Cherry Gap Shelter to Cherry Gap.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 9/16/2015

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Bradley Gap

People: Lynn DiFiore, Eilidh (canine)

Summary: I cut back the worst of the briars and did some minor lopping. The spring at Bradley Gap is barely running. I dispersed three fire rings from Little Hump to Bradley Gap. There wasn't much trash at the Bradley Gap campsites; most was in the fire rings, so I was glad Eilidh was with me to carry it out (see photo). We saw a couple of section hikers who were enjoying the sunset at Little Hump. Nice fall-like day to be out!

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/17/2015

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 5, 1.5 mile south of TN 91

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, George Thorpe

Summary: We continued rehab of old steep road on Iron Mountain by adding steps and water diversions. We probably have several more days of work. We also blocked some shortcutting of the switchback a little farther out by using some large trees to block the alternate paths.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 9/18/2015

Purpose: Fall Maintenance

Location: Section 16b, Weedy Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

People: Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Judy Middlemas, Eric Middlemas, Lana Scott, Wayne Jones, Mike Hupko

Summary: We mowed the orchard and other sections of the trail needing mowing, cleaned waterbars, lopped, picked up trash at campsites and at the trail head, and painted blazes from Iron Mountain Gap to Weedy Gap. The flow of the spring in the orchard was very low. The apple trees were loaded this year.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 9/19/2015

Purpose: Weed

Location: Section 3a, McQueen's Gap to spring 2.3 miles North of Low Gap

People: Michael Watts

Summary: I cleared weeds from McQueen's Gap to spring.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 9/21/2015

Purpose: Assess maintenance needs

Location: Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap



People: Richard Carter

Summary: I walked the section making notes of future maintenance needs in anticipation of the Thursday Group outing for Thursday the 24th, and a future work outing by Appalachian State University students in November. I also trimmed some overgrowth limbs on the north side of Grassy Ridge, and carried out a small amount of trash from Stan Murray Shelter.

Reporting: Ed Oliver

Date: 9/22/2015

Purpose: Plan rehab around Overmountain Shelter

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Ed Oliver

Summary: Ed joined Paul Benfield and Ted Mowery (see next report). Paul had identified some possible improvements to stabilize the shelter. Ed and Paul did some planning while Ted was mowing. Loose dirt under sleeping platforms is moving outside in spite of 2x materials. Probably the open side can be lined with locust logs and maybe backfilled with gravel. Siding on back wall needs refastened with screws. Some of the siding needs to be raised off the ground so moisture is not wicking. Drainage in front of the shelter needs to be improved by adding another long ditch. The privy is good for another year at least. Hydrated lime was added. The road culvert is not plugged, but it is restricted, so it needs cleaning. These improvements will be a good future project for the Thursday Crew.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 9/22/2015

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds at the camping area and trails as needed.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 9/22/2015

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds at the A.T. and Accessible Trail as needed across the Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Phyllis Cairnes

Date: 9/22/2015

Purpose: Maintain shelter

Location: Section 2b, Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Kim Peters, Phyllis Cairnes

Summary: We picked up minimal trash, cleaned out the gutter, checked the water source (pencil-sized stream running freely), replaced the log book, and checked the surrounding area. Surprisingly, none of the fire rings we broke up two months ago had been rebuilt. During the hike in and out we met one southbounder, one dayhiker, and three hunters scouting the area for the upcoming bow season.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 9/24/2015

Purpose: Maintain water diversions and rehab trail

Location: Section 14c, Round Bald and Engine Gap

People: George Thorpe, Paul Benfield, Spencer Scheidt, David Hall, Kevin Sedgwick, Ted Mowery, Pat Loven, Bob Peoples, Kayla Carter, Brian Paley, Ed Oliver, John Beaudet, Kim Peters, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter

Summary: We gave assistance to a crew from Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and the National Forest Service in placing gravel around the base of a new kiosk at the Carver's Gap trail head. We built and/or cleaned 59 water diversions between Carver's Gap and Engine Gap, and rehabbed about 470 feet of trail in Engine Gap. We also obliterated the off-trail tracks that had been formed beside the gravel trail in that area. Erosion and other deterioration was rehabbed around about ten log steps. A section of barbed wire which had been cut by vandals to allow trail cross-cutting was repaired. We replaced a blaze-bearing and direction-indicating sign post which had been uprooted by someone. Ed Oliver performed ambassadorial duty by welcoming and recruiting a possible volunteer who lives near Roan Mountain State Park. After work hours, we enjoyed a picnic at Watauga Point hosted by the Watauga District forest service crew. (See photos next page, courtesy of Ken Buchanan.)

9/24/2015, Work Trip, Carvers Gap to Engine Gap, and Watauga Ranger District Picnic



Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club
Fall EXPO
Saturday, November 14th, 2015

Reservation Form

Fill out the form below and send it with a check payable to **Yancey Appling**.

Within Eastman send to:
 Yancey Appling, Building 150B

Outside Eastman send to:
 Yancey Appling
 407 Lamont St
 Johnson City, TN 37604

IMPORTANT NOTE:

It would be great to have a head count and payment by Monday, November 9th to ensure the club has sufficient beverage, side items, dessert, and paper goods for the dinner. Your timely reply is really appreciated.

Names of all attending (*please print*)

Name(s): _____

Number attending: Adult	_____	x \$10.00 =	\$ _____
Child	_____	x \$5.00 =	\$ _____
Number attending and providing chili	_____		\$0

>>> There is no charge for attendees providing chili for the meal. <<<