



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

November 2015

tehcc.org

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From the Chair

Steve Ankabrandt reporting

Like the colder weather, our first EXPO event is coming quickly! The EXPO is replacing our Fall Dinner Meeting this year and has something of interest for everybody:

- The cook-off is a great way to sample various chili recipes and compete for prizes donated by local outdoor vendors such as Cabela's and Bass Pro Shop. If you are interested in competing, please let us know soon (reservation form below). Chili cooks also get free admission to the EXPO.
- The gear swap provides a good opportunity to get out the gear that you no longer use and see if you can sell it or trade it for something you can use. You may find a good bargain on some gear you need!
- Several hikes of various lengths/difficulties and a float trip are all scheduled for the morning and early afternoon (see article below for details and contacts).
- A number of displays will be available on outdoor topics such as canoeing/kayaking, ultralight packing, etc.

I'll see you there! Steve

November 14 – TEHCC 2015 Fall Expo

Event	Time	Details
TEHCC Fall Expo	9:00 am - 8:00 pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport TN
Local Hikes	8:30 am - 3:00pm	<p>Hike 1: Laurel Run Park to Eastman Lodge (7 miles, strenuous) 8:30 AM meet at the Eastman Lodge, carpool to Laurel Run Park, hike to the Lodge. Leader: Michael Watts, 423-963-1593</p> <p>Hike 2: Bays Structure Tour (11 miles - hard) 8:30 AM meet at the dam. Leader: Tim Schaefer, 423-302-0846</p> <p>Hike 3: Lakeside Trail – Bays Mountain Park (2.3 miles - easy) 2:00 PM meet at the dam. Leader: Carrie Schaefer, 423-408-2846</p>
Local Kayak/Canoe	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Kayak Trip: North Fork Holston River from Carters Valley Bridge to 11W (4.25 miles)

Trip		Easy Class I-II river with mild current. All watercraft are welcome. 1:00 PM meet at Greenbelt parking lot near Netherlands Inn Rd to arrange for shuttle to Carters Valley Rd. Put in at Carters Valley Bridge. Leader: Andrea Gass 270-816-2576
Gear Swap	3:00 pm-7:00 pm	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	3:00 pm-7:00 pm	Various local vendors promoting gear or class offerings and displays on outdoor topics (canoeing/kayaking, ultralight packing, local nature parks, e.g.)
Happy "Trails" Hour	5:00 pm-6:00 pm	Home-made beer
Chili Cook-Off	5:30 pm-7:00 pm	Contestants serve chili and all attendees sample the chili and get to vote on their favorites. Also provided will be corn bread, cheese, dessert, and various condiments.
Fall Awards Presentation	7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Brief update of club activities Recognition of ATC personnel Chili cook-off awards

We currently have several local outdoor vendors and Bays Mountain Park interested in participating.

We still need to have a few 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

I updated a good amount of content during the month of October, including [Rogers Ridge Horse Trail](#), [Bays Mountain](#), and [Warriors' Path State Park](#). It's becoming too much work to go out hiking! As for the inner workings, I've turned back on anonymous edits and user account creation. It's working great to stop the vandals, but still no new editors have been contributing. I've also started a concept of "hike plans." These will be pages that assemble a collection of trail hikes into a single plan. Bays Mountain and their network of trails are prime examples of needing hike plans. An 11-mile tour of structures within the park is an early example. I call it the [Bays Mountain Structure Tour](#) and will lead this hike as part of the fall Expo.

Speaking of contributing, it is a wiki and, yes, we would love your help. We have documented 168 trails, some with little more than just their trail name, and I know there are many more within a 2-4 hour drive that we haven't even listed yet. Although I promise that wiki editing is easy and that you can't permanently mess it up (all edits are saved, past versions can be reviewed, and edits can always be undone), you can always email me at tim@tehcc.org with any desired corrections. But get in there, try out wiki editing, and help make this site the resource to find out about great hikes in our area.

Trail Wiki Feature of the Month

Tim Schaefer reporting

[Rogers Ridge Horse Trail](#) is an in-and-out 6.87-mile ridgeline trail. It's a long hill climb trail for a day hike, but near the end, the 360° views of the surrounding ridgelines make it all worthwhile. A side benefit of this hike is being able to reach the Tri-State Corner Knob junction of TN-NC-VA. The trail begins in the Horse Ridge Scenic Area of the Cherokee National Forest past Damascus near Laurel Bloomery, TN. Horses are allowed, but on a recent October 2015 trip, there was little evidence of them. Although clearly marked at the trail head that ATV/ORV vehicles were not allowed, signs of their recent presence were along the entire trail.

The hike begins with an immediate creek crossing that has neither a bridge nor decent rocks to hop across; but this will be the last time you see water. Although guide books mention some campsites along the way with water access, we didn't see them. The trail wastes no time getting to the 3,201 feet of



Rogers Ridge Balds View

climbing, as it's nearly a consistent slope up to the summit. The trail itself is very well marked with yellow rectangle blazes, but several unmarked and well worn trails connect along the way. It may be that one of them connects to the [Gentry Creek Falls](#) trail that would make for a nice loop trail. The trail itself is wide with a clear "two-track" appearance and the occasional water-logged rut to walk around. While not noticed on the ascent, the descent can be challenging for the ankles, as there are several sections of loose rocks, fist-sized and smaller.

After hiking for 5.33 miles with glimpses through the trees of mountains and neighboring ridgelines, you finally enter a clearing to enjoy the views. The trail may "officially" end here as the previously well-blazed path now lacks markings, but you can continue on to enjoy the views. From here you can take a side trip to the south to get an early view of the surrounding ridgelines and valley including Grandfather Mountain. Continuing on the trail to the north, you reach another bald clearing that would be suitable for camping, especially for large groups. The only reservation I myself have about camping here is the apparent frequent use of ORVs here. From this higher elevation, there are views of Whitetop Mountain and Mt Rogers Mountain to the northeast. Throughout these bald clearings, blackberry bushes appear to be growing rampant. If you can tolerate the thorns, the blackberry picking in the summer must be unlimited!

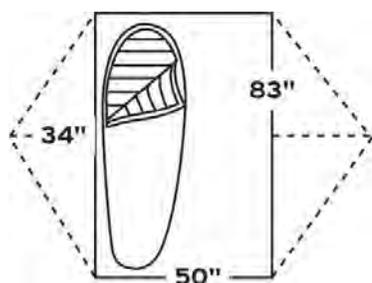
In a bald clearing to the east towards the state line is the trail high point in the final bald clearing. Although various sources differ on the exact elevation, we measured by GPS at 4,900 feet. The ridgetop home seen to the south appears to have been severely vandalized. Although unfortunate for the owner, one can only hope that one day this majestic ridgeline and profile can be returned to its original natural glory. After the high point, the trail begins to descend for the first time, and ends at a trail/road. Turn left to continue the descent to find the Tri-State Corner Knob, the terminus (at least at one time) of this trail.

When visited in October of 2015, the hike was an enjoyable day of near complete solitude. The only encounter was a couple in a truck near the trail terminus. Unexpectedly we found the trees to be in the early stages of changing colors to the south and west, and found only bare trees to the north and east. Regardless, the day of fresh air, views, and exercise was more than enough to make this a great trail to visit, that you should consider as well.

TEHCC Rental Equipment: HT-7 Kelty TrailLogic TN2

Submitted by Vic Hasler based on website post by Terry Dougherty, Rental Equipment Coordinator (rental@tehcc.org)

The well-worn two-person REI Half Dome tent (probably from 1999) was replaced in May 2014 with a greatly updated Kelty TrailLogic TN2. Its novel feature is the "stargazing" fly which rolls back for unobstructed nighttime views, but deploys cover easily without exiting the shelter in case the weather changes. The new tent is about a pound lighter at 4 lb, 13 oz, and six inches narrower, but has two vestibules to stash gear under the fly. It packs into a tight 14" x 11" x 3" box shape. It was purchased for just under \$240 from Mahoney's.



Welcome Amy Snyder as ATC SORO Resource Management Coordinator

Vic Hasler reporting

Amy received a B.S. in Biology from Armstrong Atlantic State University in 2006. As a graduation present to herself, she decided to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail. During her hike, she witnessed the dramatic devastation of the forest caused by the gypsy moth invasion. This experience inspired her to pursue a M.S. in Entomology from Virginia Tech. Since graduation in 2011, she has been working towards forest protection in the natural sciences and natural resources fields. In her free time, Amy enjoys hiking, whitewater kayaking, and mountain biking. She can be reached at [<asnyder@appalachiantrail.org>](mailto:asnyder@appalachiantrail.org).



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Stephen Walker

Kirstin Morton

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Nov 6	F/B: Warriors' Path State Park – Boneyard Trail	Carrie Schaefer	423-408-2846
Nov 14	TEHCC Fall Expo		
Nov 14	TEHCC Expo Kayak Trip	Andrea Gass	270-816-2576
Nov 14	TEHCC Expo Hike – Bays Structure Tour	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846
Nov 14	TEHCC Expo Hike – Laurel Run Park	Michael Watts	423-963-1593
Nov 14	TEHCC Expo Hike – Lakeside Trail	Carrie Schaefer	423-408-2846
Nov 17	TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting	Steve Ankabrandt	423-229-2657
Nov 21	3rd Saturday Hiking With Tools	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
Nov 27	Warriors' Path State Park – Sinking Waters	Carrie Schaefer	423-408-2846
Dec 13	Natural Tunnel – Purchase Ridge Trail	Tim & Carrie Schaefer	423-302-0846
Dec 19	Roaring Branch Trail	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846

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: Ryan Shealy, 423-963-6066

Interested in kayaking but don't know where to start? Basic kayak 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 \$3 for 2 full hours of fun; 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 Ryan Shealy (423-963-6066). For additional event details, click [here](#).

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](#) for details and meeting time and place.

Scheduled Events

Warriors' Path [Boneyard Trail](#), , Friday, November 6, 2015

Leader: Carrie Schaefer, 423-408-2846

Here is the first of a hopefully routine installment of routine family friendly, social, and active gatherings. For this first event, we'll meet at the Warriors' Path Mountain Bike Trail parking lot at 1:30 PM to hike the three-mile [Boneyard Trail](#). This hike will include children and will move at a suitable pace for them. Contact hike leader [Carrie Schaefer](#) to let her know to look for you.

TEHCC Fall EXPO 2015, Eastman Lodge, Saturday, November 14, 2015, 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Don't forget our FALL EXPO! A day of hiking, gear, chili, learning, and fellowship. Come for one thing or come for all. It's your choice. Reservations are not required in advance, but are appreciated for planning purposes. Paid reservations are only required for those wishing to partake in the members-provided chili and club-provided desserts, tea, and sides. All others are welcome and encouraged to attend any and all other events of their liking at NO COST! It's also not too late to contact Steve Ankabrandt if you're interested in bringing chili (reservation fee waived!) or would like to ensure you have a table to display your wares for sale. It's going to be a great day of fun!

EXPO OUTDOOR EVENTS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015

Fall Expo Kayak Trip, North Fork Holston River from Carters Valley Bridge to 11W, 1:00 PM

Leader: [Andrea Gass](#), 270-816-2576

Easy Class I-II river with mild current (4.25 miles). All watercraft are welcome

Bring your own kayak/canoe and appropriate gear (paddle, PFD, helmet). Bring cold weather gear and dry clothes!

Meet at the Greenbelt parking lot near Netherlands Inn Rd at 1:00 PM to arrange for shuttle to Carters Valley Rd. We will put in at Carters Valley Bridge.

Fall Expo Hike, [Bays Structure Tour](#), 8:30 AM

Leader: Tim Schaefer , 423-302-0846

Rating: Hard (11 miles)

As part of the Expo, this will be a longer hike within Bays Mountain Park. I'm calling it the [Bays Structure Tour](#) (view the trail wiki for details). It's designed as an 11-mile hike with the goal to see all of the old structures and quarry within the park. We'll be starting at 8:30 AM at the park dam. Then we'll return to the Lodge for the remainder of the day's festivities around 3:30 PM. Contact [Tim Schaefer](#) if interested so I know to look for you.

Fall Expo Hike, Laurel Run Park to Eastman Lodge, 8:30 AM

Leader: Michael Watts, 423-963-1593

Rating: Strenuous (7 miles)

Meet at the Eastman Lodge at 8:30 AM. We will carpool to Laurel Run Park, then hike to the Lodge.

Fall Expo Hike, [Lakeside Trail](#), 2:00 PM

Leader: [Carrie Schaefer](#) , 423-408-2846

Rating: Easy (2.3 miles)

Rev up your appetite for the Expo Chili Cook Off and hike this Bays Mountain classic. This will be a nature lovers hike of both young and old so pack your camera and field books and leave your running shoes at home. Plan to meet at the park Dam at 2:00 PM to do the hike, likely returning to the Lodge at ~3:30 PM for the remainder of the day's festivities. Contact [Carrie Schaefer](#) if interested.

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 17, 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: Warriors' Path State Park, [Sinking Waters](#), Friday, November 27, 2015

Leader: [Carrie Schaefer](#), 423-408-2846

Rating: Family/Beginner

Come burn off some turkey and stuffing and hike to see the 8th wonder of Colonial Heights - a stream sinking into a hole. This hike will be Family/Beginner friendly as it will have small children along for the hike. Meet at the pool parking lot at 1:30 PM to caravan over to the Sinking Waters trail head. Contact Carrie Schaefer (carrie@koomba.net) for coordination and to know to expect you.

For the Record

A.T.: Fall Colors at Osborne Farm, Sunday, October 11, 2015

Vic Hasler Reporting

The cold and rainy day prior turned into a beautiful autumn Sunday afternoon; however, I ended up hiking alone, although a dozen backpackers were seen proceeding north on the Trail and one south. The fall color was a few days before peak with some individual trees providing dazzling displays. The hike started as planned with the 0.8-mile crossing of the open farm pasture with views north up the valley. The cattle were ready to be let in from the middle field to be fed at the barn. The walk continued roughly another half hour into the woods, and then returned to the parking lot. I decided to check out the new trail relocation south of the Cross Mountain parking lot, so proceeded a mile south just past the bog bridges. The falling leaves allowed the tread to be less muddy. With the remaining afternoon, I visited two places at Shady Valley managed by The Nature Conservancy at Schoolyard Springs and Orchard Bog. The winding drive on US 421 was enjoyed in the fading daylight.



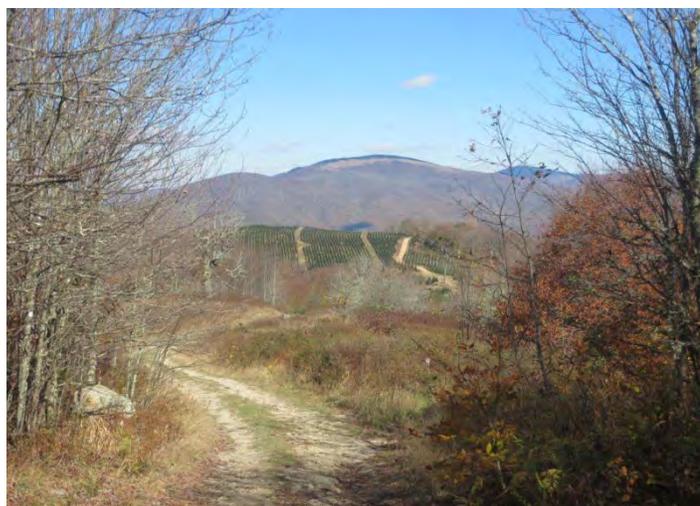
Looking north from Osborne Farm

Rogers Ridge Horse Trail (Substitute for Pinnacle Fire Tower), October 17, 2015

Tim Schaefer reporting

A day prior, we decided to do a last minute change up. Based on prior reports of the fire tower being popular for fall hikers, we

decided to look for a road less traveled. We settled on [Rogers Ridge Horse Trail](#). (See the wiki page or this month's Feature of the Month for technical details.) It turned out to be a fantastic day of hiking. With our few side trips, the GPS logged us for a 15.5-mile day of hiking. It was also a very solitary hike. On a weekend when many should have been heading out to bald vistas like this, we saw absolutely no one except for a couple in a truck near the Tri-State Corner Knob of TN-VA-NC. Although in the first portion of the hike we had decent glimpses of the surrounding ridges, we were truly rewarded at 5.33 miles when we entered the first bald clearing. We took a side trip to the left for some early views before resuming the ridge hike to the right. A vandalized cabin on the bald ridge peak of Stone Mountain, provided many topics of conversation. We completed the outbound hike with a view of the prior mentioned Tri-State Corner Knob. Some maps suggested that we could have returned by way of Gentry Creek Falls, but how was not clear. After hiking 8+miles at that point, we didn't want to inadvertently add a few more by taking a wrong turn to only have to turn back. Overall the trail was fairly well marked for the specified trail, but none of the many well-used connections were marked. Also, despite many signs at the trailhead saying differently, the trail is obviously used routinely by off-road vehicle riders. Joining me on this hike was Charlie Outlaw.



View of Whitetop Mountain and Mt. Rogers



NC-VA-TN Corner Triangulation Station Disk



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 9/28/2015

Purpose: Clear trailside overgrowth

Location: Section 20a, Middle of Temple Hill Ridge

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I cleared about 1/2 mile and met one northbound backpacker at 7:30 am.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 9/28/2015

Purpose: Fall Maintenance

Location: Section 18, FS 230 to Indian Grave Gap

People: Eric Middlemas, Judy Middlemas, Pat Kennedy, John Parks, Jerry Jones, Rick Culbertson, Bruce Darby, Wayne Jones, John Deyton, Mike Hupko

Summary: We cleaned waterbars and dips, lopped low and overhanging branches, and cut four trees from across the trail. Deep Gap spring is running good. A chainsaw is needed to cut a large tree from the trail, however we left the trail passable across the tree.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 9/28/2015

Purpose: Fall Maintenance

Location: Section 17, Low Gap to FS 230 switchback

People: Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Ernie Hartford, Jeannine Edwards

Summary: This crew cut six trees, the largest about 8 inches in diameter. They also lopped overhanging branches and removed small limbs from the trail.

Reporting: Bill Murdoch

Date: 10/1/2015

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 5, Iron Mountain

People: Paul Benfield, Bill Murdoch, George Thorpe, Richard Carter, Joe Morris, Tim Stewart, and Bob Peoples

Summary: Seven people braved a 75% chance of rain to install seven waterbars and seven log steps on the steep old road starting on the northern climb of Iron Mountain. And no one got wet in the field. Another day of rehab in this general area remains.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 10/5/2015

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 9b, Pond Mountain

People: Joe Morris, Robin Dean

Summary: We lopped rhododendron, cut weeds, cribbed trail, and repaired an area that was sloughing in the gorge. We removed four blowdowns, and cut a hazard tree. We saw two section hikers headed for Damascus and four SOBO thru-hikers. It was a great day for hiking. Three or four sidelogs need to be replaced about half-way up Pond and one of the switchback staircases is being compromised due to hikers "short-cutting" the trail. We will rehab these at a later date. Otherwise, the Trail is in good condition to the top at Pond Flats.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 10/6/2015

Purpose: Clear trailside undergrowth

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

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I cleared the north end of Temple Hill Ridge, about 1/2 mile. The entire section is now clear and open. I met one southbounder from Maine, headed to Springer from Harpers Ferry.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 10/7/2015

Purpose: Fall Partnership Discussion

Location: USFS Appalachian Ranger District Office, Mars Hill, NC

People: USFS Appalachian District: Matt McCombs, David McFee, Sue Fruchey; USFS Unaka District: Leslie Morgan, Cheryl Summers; USFS Watauga District: Keith Kelly, Alice Cohen; TEHCC: Ed Oliver, Tim Steward, Carl Fritz, Kim Peters, Mike Hupko, Vic Hasler, Paul Benfield, Bob Peoples; ATC SORO: Morgan Summerville, Leanne Joyner, Chris Binder, Amy Snyder; CMC: Tom Weaver

Summary: An excellent discussion was held among Trail partners at the USFS office. If you desire further details beyond this summary, please contact anyone who attended.

USFS was thoroughly engaged with a portion of the many topics captured here. Many hands were raised by staff who fought forest fires in the West. We're glad everyone is back safe. Information kiosk has been installed at Carver's Gap with initial messaging. Maintenance for all open areas is on track to be completed this year, including ten acres at Round Bald and Beauty Spot chainsaw work. Observation is that late mowing may result in a larger population of Gray's Lilies. After a three year period, A.T. closure for Oliver Hollow/Watauga Lake will be lifted December 1st. Temporary campsite above Shook Branch will be closed and area naturalized. We discussed providing interpretive signs regarding bears (beyond don't feed them) at shelters, campsites, and hostels. A Watauga Lake Shelter bear pole needs to be addressed before start of 2016 season to make it effective and usable. Old Ridge Road relocation has been surveyed. USFS funding is being arranged to transfer Atwood property; except two acres right at the cemetery will need to be owned by a conservation group. Access road to Doll Flats will have some gravel applied, and mowing at Elk River is also planned for this month. Site survey and preliminary drawings have been started for the two bridges, but foundations will need to be checked with TEHCC. New Chestoa kiosk needs are to determine and post messaging, which can be more specific to the A.T. Investigation into bear line, observed at No Business Knob shelter, determined it was not TWRA by its construction, location, and timing (next survey in July 2016). A 30-year study of Northern Flying Squirrel is proposed for near Beauty Spot with solar-powered weather station and trapping grid located in a fenced area away from trail view. Specific location has not yet been selected. Longstanding problem of peak use of Dennis Cove Road and Hampton parking areas was reviewed.

TVA was unable to attend, but sent a message which was read. Available FY 15 funding allowed construction of a 0.4-mile connector trail from TVA Watauga Overlook Area to A.T. There will be a new kiosk near the overlook area, which could have some Trail or LNT information. Signage will not be ready until spring. TVA campground at Watauga Lake is still closed to tent camping. Some thought is being given to having no tent camping by converting existing sites to RV use, with decision expected before next season. No bear reports this season!

TEHCC reviewed club accomplishments, including 478 volunteers providing 14,938 hours from Oct 2014 to Sept 2015. The number of volunteers has remained steady for many years, while hours increased as the dedicated core group of maintainers participated in more events. A drop in the number of volunteers is anticipated for 2016 without a Hard Core event in Tennessee. Upcoming projects were reviewed. Some are still waiting on approvals and funding. In the next year, work is planned for finishing rehab at Doll Flats/Hump Mtn, at several shelters, Shook Branch Bridge, plus relocations at Deep Gap and Old Ridge Road. A small group volunteered to look at maintenance policy where rare plants are located. We had a good discussion on rescue squads. CMC has provided an annotated map with access routes, gates, GPS coords, and contacts. A proposal for signage at A.T. highway crossings was reviewed. NC has some A.T. signs with a long, thin diamond background. County commissioners were suggested as being able to provide contacts and leverage for the signage. ATC TN-NC Guidebook is being updated for early 2016 release. It was pointed out that no camping is allowed in Shook Branch rec area pavilions and Roan Mtn Day Use Area, which will be indicated in the next edition.

ATC welcomed Chris Binder (Trail Specialist) and Amy Snyder (Resource Management Coordinator). Morgan stated there have been no early indications of the impact of the movie, "A Walk in the Woods," beyond a few calls to national office. Visitor Use Management is protecting the A.T. hiking experience, and thus has nine proposals. A couple mentioned were recommending use of bear canisters from GA thru TN and a voluntary permit system similar to GSMNP (but won't be ready until early next year). Hazard Tree Training is set for 11/30-12/1. While initially focused on shelters and campsites, goal is to review areas where people congregate. Trail Assessment has two field technicians who are rapidly collecting information for the larger assets using GPS measurements and photos; thus they should complete the TEHCC section in October. Training for TEHCC on tally data is set for Thursday 10/8. Original tally data sheets will be kept by Chris until they can be entered into NPS MIS. Feedback on the "Roan Naturalist" is: the title means something to the public and is thus more effective; good to be in field before Memorial Day to learn trail section and features; and a request for possibly training Trail Ambassadors to augment the Naturalist on peak weekends.

Next meeting was set for Wednesday, March 16, 1-4 pm at USFS Unicoi, TN office. Spring joint VARO/SORO RPC will be March 11-13 at Hungry Mother State Park.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 10/7/2015

Purpose: ATC Capital Discussion

Location: USFS Appalachian Ranger District Office, Mars Hill, NC

People: TEHCC: Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler; ATC: Morgan Summerville, Leanne Joyner, Chris Binder, Amy Snyder

Summary: APPA (Appalachian Trail Park Office) SORO Capital Plan was reviewed and updated. 2016 and 2017 funding was approved for open area landscapes and Konnarock crews. These two items are still under the flexible approach. John Odell had submitted supporting plans for open areas. Discussion was held about assessing future of Berry Fields open area.

Changes to capital plan were: 1) Continuation of Backbone Rock Trail work (Phases 2 and 3) by Konnarock Crew for two more two-week sessions during 2016-2018; 2) Remove Old Ridge Road relocation as now planned to be done in cooperation with ASU in August 2016; and 3) Rehabilitation of No Business Knob Shelter to be moved from 2020 to 2021 to have three year separation after effort for Cherry Gap shelter.

Other investments on the capital plan are for 2018: Rehabilitate A.T. Cherry Gap Shelter, 2019: Relocate A.T. at US 321, Shook Branch, and 2020: Relocate A.T. between Weedy Gap and Greasy Creek Gap. No project was submitted for 2022.

The status of Tennessee license plate funding for a set of projects submitted earlier in year was requested, but no immediate update was available. Funding would support work at several shelters and two bridges.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 10/8/2015

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14c, North side of Grassy Ridge

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I cut weeds and a few overhanging limbs along a 1/3-mile stretch just north of the Grassy Ridge Trail intersection.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 10/8/2015

Purpose: Asset Inventory training and practice

Location: Sections 8 and 10, US 321 to Wilbur Dam Road and Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

People: Tim Stewart, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Bill Murdoch, Becky Kinder, Gayle Riddervold, Brian Paley, Jim Chambers, Eric Giebelstein, David Underwood

Summary: The Thursday crew had Asset Inventory training with Eric Giebelstein and David Underwood from ATC. After a brief discussion at the Hampton blue-blaze trailhead, we split into two groups. One group went from the Hampton blue-blaze trail to Dennis Cove Rd, while the other group went from US 321 to Wilbur Dam Rd. It was a nice day for a hike while counting steps, cribs, signs, etc. I think everyone learned alot.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 10/11/2015

Purpose: Pick up trash

Location: Sections 3b and 4a, Low Gap and Cross Mtn parking lots

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: The planned club hike at the Osborne Farm evolved to include some Trail maintenance when trash was picked from the parking lots at Cross Mtn (3 bags) and Low Gap (15 bags). The latter was not finished due to the fading daylight. I mostly removed glass bottles, foil wrappers, and beverage cans. The piped spring at Low Gap only collected 250 ml in one minute; thus just 4-gallons-per-hour flow.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 10/12/2015

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US321 Shook Branch

People: Brian Paley

Summary: I cleared a blowdown near Oliver Hollow Road and also took out a dangerous tree that was leaning over the trail at Shook Branch. I picked up a bag of trash around Shook Branch.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 10/12/2015

Purpose: APPA Trail Assessment

Location: Section 15b, Cloudland Hotel to Hughes Gap, including side trails

People: Eric Giebelstein (ATC Tech), Vic Hasler

Summary: The Treadway Inventory Report was completed for Cloudland Hotel to Hughes Gap. This is part of APPA's Trail Assessment effort to determine the value of the A.T. for purpose of NPS funding. Side trails were checked, including Roan High Knob/Cloudland/USFS 1000, Ash Gap water, and spring 0.4 mile north of Hughes Gap; but these typically had very few improvement features. Primary value of the main Trail in this section results from 388 rock steps installed above Ash Gap and 141 below, 107 wood steps, a 100-ft long stretch of rock pavers, and nearly 1900 sf of rock retaining wall. Overall, the significant trail improvements completed over the past few years are holding up well, while the black alpine soil remains soft where it is the main tread. Roan Mtn Day Use area is closed for the season. Hunters are out; thus remember to wear blaze orange! All springs were flowing well. We saw a few blowdowns which are passable.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/15/2015

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 5, On north end of Iron Mtn

People: Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: The Thursday Crew finished the major rehab of the old steep road by continuing to install waterbars and steps. This completes the major rehab and relocations on Section 5. Yay!

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 10/16/2015

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

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

People: Ken Murray

Summary: I removed several small blowdowns with a Silky saw.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 10/17/2015

Purpose: Lop, paint blazes, conduct treadway inventory

Location: Section 7, Wilbur Dam Rd to the spring

People: Terry Bryson, Terry Oldfield, Phyllis Cairnes, Lori Mirrer, Kim Peters

Summary: What a beautiful fall day for this October, 3rd-Saturday, Hiking-with-Tools trip! We painted all the blazes, clipped back the rhododendron, cleared a few blowdowns and inventoried the treadway. We met several groups of hikers and one of us even saw a bear. We welcomed a first-time maintainer, Terry Bryson and a third-time returning maintainer, Lori Mirrer, who once again traveled all the way from Charlotte to join us. Another fine 3rd-Saturday outing.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 10/17/2015

Purpose: SORO RPC Meeting

Location: Asheville, NC

People: Steve Perri

Summary: I attended the ATC southern regional partnership meeting. This group meets twice each year to discuss issues affecting the clubs and their partnerships. The Appalachian Trail Park Office (APPA) is operating at 19% below budget for 2015. High priority issues are dealing with pipeline threats. APPA and ATC started trail assessments in all 4 regions this year with seasonal hires. Completion is expected in 2017. At end of the process, clubs will be able to see value by trail-maintenance section rather than by APPA's original 83 sections. Clubs might choose to develop reporting processes to capture future asset changes (maybe simple checklist or database). APPA is trying to staff up for new initiatives.

ATC's new strategic plan is in the early phase of execution. PATHE (preferred A.T. hiker experience) is a priority to address visitor use and experience. Effective stewardship is an emphasis for 2016 with the addition of a new-hire. Nine pipelines are being monitored to mitigate their visual impact. Julie Judkins was promoted to Director of Education and Outreach to engage communities near the A.T. and future volunteers. "A Walk in the Woods" task force generated a priority list. A.T. usage is growing about 8 to 10% each year. Hiker starts in GA were a record 3,000 in 2015. SMHC sees bubbles of hikers; 200/day in some places. The increase in trail usage is a concern, especially the impact on overnight locations. ATC wants to spread users out on the A.T. to manage increased use. Adding law enforcement to issue tickets is an initial regional plan. Also, a plan is being developed for an A.T. accreditation program to educate potential trail users of good practices. GATC developed a pilot program with an interagency council to design a registration system for overnight users. Students on spring break may be encouraged to go to zones farther from Springer Mtn. In the GA section, bear canisters are going to be highly recommended rather than relying on hanging food.

The Biennial Task Force is considering a trailwide virtual meeting every other year. The format might be similar to a membership meeting. This would require a change in the by-laws and take awhile to implement. Aug 26-28, 2016 is the next leadership meeting in Shepherdstown, WV. Discussion of the draft MOU is underway in clubs. There are concerns regarding accountability and questions about adding more details. I recommended that clubs keep the MOU's spirit of simplicity and not add detail. A follow up with RPCs is likely to happen in December or January. APPA is working to get National Register documentation for the A.T. to aid in its protection for the future.

The Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has expired; so those funds are currently unavailable for land acquisitions. Some senators are supportive of reauthorization, but it will be an uphill battle. Tracts are being submitted by zoning within USFS plans.

Applications for ATC's Next Generation Advisory Council (8-10 people age 18-25) are being processed this month. The Council will report up thru the ATC Stewardship Council. The A.T. Community Summit, Nov 1-4, will develop a 10-20 year vision draft. An RPC rep will attend and report back to the RPC. "Every Kid in a Park" initiative will allow 4th graders access to parks with their friends/families. A list of FAQs has been generated, which can be provided to local educators. ATC is developing a Conservation Leadership Corp to help provide training and leadership. In 2016 they are looking for 6 candidates for a 10-week pilot program. Family Hiking Day is Sept 24, 2016. APPA will decide how to collect information on clubs' outreach and youth activities for Family Hiking Day.

ATC relayed that the club listening sessions generated info on training needs, the webinars' best practices, the MOUs, and other resources for clubs. (Clubs have until Nov 26 to turn in a form for webinar requests.) This type of survey will likely be done again in the future. The issue of hazard trees was discussed and the need for clubs to do assessments at key locations. Bill Jones will be in Asheville to lead a hazard tree training session in the SORO office and other locations trail-wide. A webinar is also being offered, Nov 19 at 6:30 pm. ATC wishes to partner volunteer trail crews with a wide variety of volunteer youth groups. Wilderness Skills Institute training went well and is a good model for partnership engagement. ATC is now an official LNT educator group. ATC would like clubs to highlight LNT videos paid for by the TN License Program (TNLP).

Amy Snyder reported on open areas and the invasive plant inventory. Morgan liked the TEHCC Local Management Plan and highlighted the benefit of doing it regularly vs waiting 5-10 years for major revisions. The TNLP deadline is in early January. Hungry Mother SP will be the location for the spring RPC meeting, March 11-13, 2016. The 2017 spring meeting will be at Blue Ridge Assembly YMCA in Black Mtn, NC. APPA 25-year awards will be sent to clubs (or given to a club rep) when recipients are not able to attend the biennial meeting. The clubs can then decide how to recognize the awardees. The RPC will have a conference call in the evening in January to provide improved communication (also a good time for MOU feedback). Rebecca is looking for more feedback earlier on the MOUs so we can discuss concerns ASAP.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/22/2015

Purpose: Inventory trail assets

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Cloudland Hotel

People: Ken Buchanan, Kim Peters

Summary: Kim and Ken completed the trail inventory for this section.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/22/2015

Purpose: Rehab trail and do trail inventory

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

People: Richard Carter, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: Mostly, the Thursday Crew continued the trail rehab between Round Bald and Engine Gap by cleaning water diversions and digging back the upside bank. A wide single trail is being defined. Tim and Bill did the trail inventory from Stan Murray Shelter to Round Bald.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 10/22/2015

Purpose: Routine Maintenance and Asset Inventory

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: Today we walked up from 19E to the power line, rechecking the waterbars and doing the survey for the Treadway Inventory Report. We also removed a small bag of trash that was sitting at the trail head along with a pair of convertible trail pants.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 10/24/2015

Purpose: Asset Inventory

Location: Section 1, Backbone Rock Trail

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I conducted an Asset Inventory for the Backbone Rock Trail

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 10/24/2015

Purpose: Treadway Inventory and Shelter Maintenance

Location: Section 5, TN91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

Summary: We conducted the asset inventory on this section. We also picked up trash at the shelter, dismantled extra fire pits and left a new log book. We met many hikers out enjoying the trail.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 10/25/2015

Purpose: Asset Inventory and Clearing Blowdowns

Location: Section 1, McQueens Gap to TN/VA State Line

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I conducted the Asset Inventories from McQueens Gap to the TN/VA State Line, and on the blue-blaze trail for the Abingdon Gap Shelter. I also removed most of the blowdowns in this section.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield

Date: 10/25/2015

Purpose: Maintain Shelter

Location: Section 4b, TN 91 to Double Springs Shelter

People: John Frey, Terry Oldfield

Summary: We hiked to Double Springs from TN 91, clipping a few briars and small branches along the way. We cleared one blowdown right before we got to the shelter; otherwise, the trail was clear. Near the shelter, we picked up trash, buried toilet paper, and cleaned out the shelter gutter. Water is still flowing at the spring. We forgot to bring a new logbook. There were a few singed pages left of the old one, which was apparently used as fire starter. If someone is going to Double Springs soon, I'd like to give you a new log book to take with you. On the way back across Osborne Farm, we restacked the cairn closest to the woods. The others are holding up well with new concrete reinforcement.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/27/2015

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 11b, Canute Place to Bitter End

People: Reuben Potter, Brandon Church, Chase Belcher

Summary: Reuben, Brandon, and Chase cleared about a dozen trees from Canute Place to Bitter End. They left some step-overs, but cleared overhead snags. They also did some brushing. We certainly thank them for their help in maintaining the trail.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 10/28/2015

Purpose: Mow Accessible Trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the accessible trail on the Osborne Farm. Some cattle were inside the fence on the accessible trail. We saw 7 thru-hikers and 1 day hiker.

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. <<<