



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

July 2016

tehcc.org

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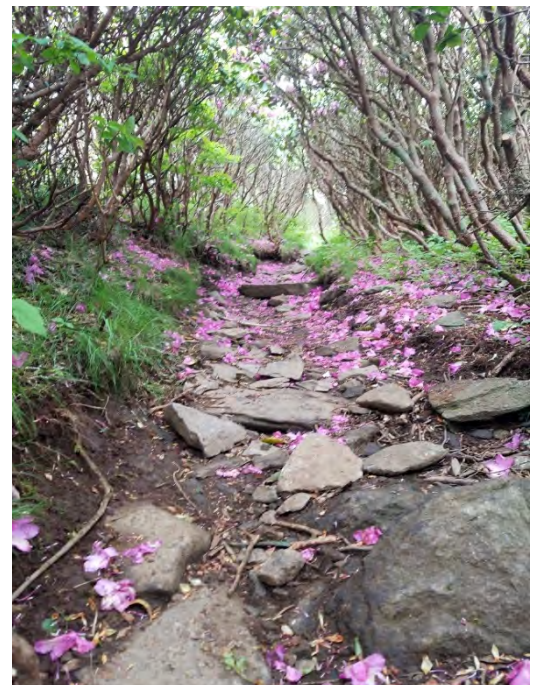
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From the Editor's desk

Koustubh Kulkarni reporting

After a prolonged winter that almost stretched into spring, summer is here and this is the perfect time to get out and about. Shake off those winter blues, shelve the winter gear, bring out your shorts and sunscreen and hit the trail. This month we started to see some really good weather and blue skies. One of the trails that got busy this month was the Rhododendron Gardens trail in the Roan Mountain area. The rhododendrons were in full bloom and so were the orange flame azalea. It was a sight for sore eyes after the winter. Couple that with some country music, handmade crafts and food and you have a perfect get-away. Here is some eye candy from this month's hikes to get you in the summer spirit and provide incentive to take advantage of the beautiful weather. I was lucky enough to capture this picture with the rhododendrons in full bloom and the blue ridges in the background. Eric Rayfield submitted this picture from Grassy Ridge Trail.



15th Annual Nolichucky Cleanup

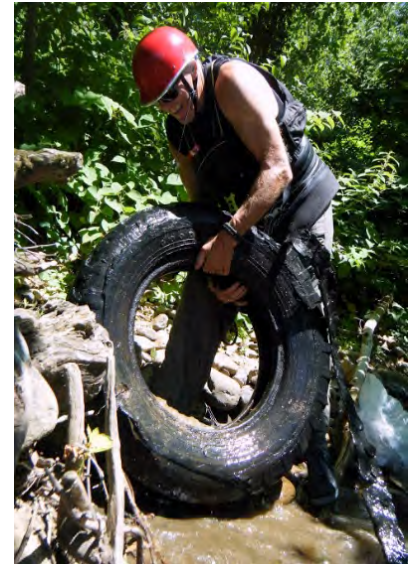
Andrea Gass reporting

Saturday June 18th marked the 15th Annual Nolichucky Cleanup. The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts have been hosting this event annually to help keep the Nolichucky River clean for paddlers, fishermen, and river-users alike! The summer is a very popular time for people to frequent the rivers recreationally, and the APEs group is proud to help everyone see the beauty of the Nolichucky by keeping it clean the way nature presented it.

This year over 30 volunteers put blood, sweat, and tears into removing garbage along a 10+ mile section of the river. Paddlers loaded up their kayaks, rafts, or canoes with trash collected from the banks and maneuvered their loads to drop-off points where the land crew picked up the garbage and transported it to the local dump station.

In total, 4 truckloads of trash and 28 tires were removed from the river! Pictured here is Jeff Vannoy, a volunteer for Team River Runner and member of the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts, picking up one of the many tires along the riverside.

After hours of hard work, volunteers enjoyed barbeque donated by Texas Roadhouse of Johnson City. A second part of the cleanup was a raffle for a Jackson FUN that was donated by Jackson Kayak. The proceeds of the raffle directly benefited Camp Bays Mountain as the group rebuilds its camp in a new location. Thanks to the generous donors and support of the paddling community, the APEs group was able to donate over \$375 to Camp Bays Mountain!



Pictured above is Debbie Briscoe, the winner of the Jackson FUN and many-year coordinator of the cleanup, along with Wesley Bradley, the local Jackson Kayak representative. Overall the cleanup was a great success! USA Raft owner remarked, "You guys did awesome on the clean up! I paddled to Jackson Love yesterday and it looked so much better! We all love working with APEs and are proud to be your partner and home base on the Nolichucky!"

The APEs group is grateful to all the volunteers and sponsors who helped make the cleanup successful. A special thanks to USA Raft for providing the cleanup location and for all they do to help local paddlers get out on the water. What a great day!

Sponsors: Jackson Kayak, Mountain Sports Ltd., Chaco, Astral Buoyancy, US Forest Service, Kokatat, Landmark Learning, USA Raft, Uncle Johnny's Hostel, Texas Roadhouse of Johnson City

TN A.T. License Plate Grant to Build Cattle Fence on Osborne Farm

Carl Fritz reporting

The cattle grazing on the Osborne Farm north of TN 91 have been fenced away from the accessible trail for several years. The ungrazed area is mown for hay. However, there are a couple of hills east of the trail towards Shady Valley that are too steep to mow for hay. Small trees are starting to grow. Representatives from USFS, ATC and TEHCC reviewed the area last December. If the area is allowed to grow up, many of the views of Shady Valley and surrounding mountains from the accessible trail will be blocked. Since we collectively are unlikely to have resources to mow this by hand or tractor for the long term, we decided it was most practical to allow the cattle on the farm to graze this area. A Tennessee A.T. License Plate



grant provided all the funding for purchasing the fencing materials. The U.S. Forest Service primarily represented by Matthew Gilbert and Reuben Potter actively participated in the fence building and supplied critical resources. Twenty-one club and four hiker volunteers also built fence during primarily nine work days. Key tasks were purchasing fence materials; cutting and splitting black locust trees into posts and rails; and building fence in a very scenic area. Some days were in full sun and others in rain.

The end result by early June is about an 1800-foot fence. The fence is woven wire with a top strand of barbed wire. At least three locust posts separate the metal t-posts about every 100 feet. It even has four wildlife stiles to allow young animals like turkey and deer to pass and a large metal gate for motorized access. These twenty-five volunteers contributed 728 hours to this important project: Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Mark Dibble, Collin Edwards, Carl Fritz, Danny Harper, Greg Kramer, Karen Loven, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Mike Price, Kevin Sedgwick, Ed Speer, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe; hikers: Abe den Harder, Staton Parker, Aaron Grills and Stephanie Roane

TEHCC Welcomes New Member

Douglas Christian	Kris Gyori	Pierre Hennaux	Gary Goad	Kevin Mann	Malia Swerdloff
Jerome Cole	Chrystal Barnette	Joseph Tedder	Aaron Gillespie	Rainey Garland	Emily Glamb
William Prisbrey	Conner Peterson	Sara Meadows	Amy Ley	Rahul Subramanian	Lauren Pironis

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

For information on APE's/TEHCC paddling events, see <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/category/regional-events/>.

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
July 1-3	Lower Watauga River Campout – Riverstone	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
July 9-10	APE's Nolichucky Gorge Overnighter	Jeremy Gass	276 - 614-0936
July 9	Pigeon Gorge River Trip Class (II-III+)	Wesley R. Bradley	423-647-1321
July 16	A.T.: F/B Gentry Creek Falls	Tim and Carrie Schaefer	423-302-0846
July 16	APE's Intmd Whitewater Kayak Clinic	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
July 21	Fun Fest Moonlight Hike, 7:00 pm	Steve Ankabrandt	423-245-3026
July 22	Paddle to Work	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846
July 22-24	APE's Basic Swift Water Rescue Course	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
July 23	A.T.: Hughes Gap through the balds to the barn	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846
July 31-Aug 2	Konnarock Crew – Backbone Rock Trail Relos	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
Aug 5-7	New River Paddle/Camp Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
Aug 12-13	APE's Advance Swift Water Rescue Course	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
Aug 21	Babes On The Waves Annual Pigeon Trip	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
Aug 21	APE's Beginner Whitewater Kayak Course	Ryan Shealy	423-963-6066
August 27	APE's Picnic & First Timer's Trips		
August ?	A.T.: Yellow Mountain Barn Shelter to 19E	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. The "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. The "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 appreciated for the newsletter and trail wiki.

Details of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting - Usually every third Tuesday , 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Contact: William Warner, chair@tehcc.org, 423-408-4469

Location: Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN; Bldg 280, Room L7

The Steering Committee guides the general program for the club. The Committee normally meets at lunchtime on the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to all TEHCC members. Bring your lunch or grab a bite at the B-280 cafeteria. 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 visitor's pass.

Tuesday Evenings: Johnson City Roll Practice, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Note: Freedom Hall pool is closed for the summer. This event is cancelled or may be moved to another location. Contact Wesley Bradley for further information.

Contact: [Wesley R. Bradley](mailto: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.

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 available in Kingsport on Thursdays at the [Kingsport Aquatic Center](#)! During the summer, we will be in the outdoor pool, but in case of rain, the center will partition off part of the indoor pool for us. Admission is \$3 for two full hours of fun; Aquatic Center members may attend free! If you have equipment, you may drop it off at the gate to the outdoor pool, or in case of rain, at the door closest to the indoor 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](#).

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

Contact: [Debbie Briscoe](mailto:Debbie.Briscoe), 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. PFDs are mandatory. For more information, contact Debbie Briscoe.

Every Other Saturday: Lower Watauga, Class I and II, 3:00 – 7:30 pm

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

We will launch from Riverside Park in Elizabethton behind the Ballpark at 3 pm unless there is water elsewhere. Call first to check and see if it's on! Also, we stop for a break about half way down, so don't forget your snacks! We are usually off the water by 7:00 or so and then we can go to dinner in town. Please be prepared for cold water and wear appropriate gear.

Directions: From W Elk Ave. in Elizabethton, turn at Rite-Aid onto West Mill Street. Take the first street on left onto Ash Street. Follow that street to the end and you will see the river. Turn left and pull into the small parking area near a covered picnic area.

3rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!

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

Hiking with Tools! is an opportunity to enjoy a day hike on our beautiful section of the A.T. while helping out with some routine maintenance, such as breaking up fire rings, cleaning out waterbars and steps, lopping rhododendron, and painting blazes. All tools will be furnished and no prior experience is required! Last year we typically had four to five people on each trip – with eight new volunteers making a contribution. Contact Kim for hike details, including meeting time and place.

Scheduled Events

Fourth of July, Lower Watauga River Campout, July 1 – 3, 2016

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

Riverstone Campground, 785 Herb Hodge Road Johnson City, TN 37601 ([link to map](#))

Come paddle and camp with us on Friday and Saturday nights and stay down on the cool banks of the Watauga River! The campground is very nice, and the cool temperature of the river provides a wonderful relief from the heat in July. Normally the lake is backed up to this campground with flat still water; but with the lake down, it flows fast and cold, just like the upper part of the river, right by this campground.

Friday Night: Get your site, come set up camp, and enjoy a fire with us in the group site.

Saturday: Load up for the river run at 11:00 and drive to the dam to put in. If you aren't camping and just want to paddle, meet us at the campground by 10:00 to be in on the shuttle. Because the campground host has agreed to run our shuttle for a nominal fee, we'll be able to paddle the whole river Saturday, right to the boat ramp at the campground and be finished for the day! This is a 5-6 hour float, so bring plenty of water, a lunch and sunscreen. And you'll still need cold-water gear like always.

Saturday Night: Please bring a covered dish for a pot luck dinner in the pavilion. The covered pavilion has picnic tables and a grill for our cookout.

Sunday Morning: Breakfast and pack out.

The campground has bathrooms and showers, and a playground for the kids! We have a group rate for both nights and we can split the cost among us for a one-night or two-night stay. PLEASE contact me to let me know which nights you are camping and if you are in a tent or a hammock. I need commitments to make sure we have the camping space we need; so please contact me!

APE's Nolichucky Gorge Overnighter, Fri/Sat, July 9-10, 2016

Trip Coordinator: [Jeremy Gass](mailto:Jeremy.Gass@tehcc.org) – (276) 614-0936

Have you ever wanted to camp out of your white water boat? Here is your chance to give it a try on an overnight trip in the Noli Gorge! We will meet Saturday July 9th mid-morning at USA Raft, shuttle to the put-in, and start making our way down the gorge. We will camp on the river side that night and finish out the run Sunday the 10th. We also plan to do some rock climbing once we get to camp and have gear available for anyone who wants to try their hands at it. We have a couple rafts lined up to help carry any gear that you may not be able to fit in your boat. Due to space constraints, the rafts will only be carrying gear and will not be able to accommodate guest paddlers. Those wanting to attend will need class II-III whitewater experience, whitewater kayak/canoe/other paddle craft, and all associated safety gear. To join this trip, contact the trip coordinator to discuss further details.

A.T.: Hughes Gap to the Yellow Mountain Barn Shelter, Saturday, July 23, 2016 – NEW DATE

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

This will be the fourth "July edition" to the plan to hike the TEHCC maintained section of the A.T.. The plan is to start at Hughes Gap, climb up to Carvers Gap, across the balds and to the barn shelter and take the Overmountain Victory Trail for a short hike out. The hike will be around 12 miles and should offer great views of the Roan balds. We should have enough attendees to handle shuttling so this is your chance to hike it without doing it twice (out-and-back). To be involved with the planning and kept on a mailing list for discussions, contact Tim Schaefer, 423-302-0846 or tim@tehcc.org.

A.T.: F/B Gentry Creek Falls, Sunday, July 16, 2016

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

Summer should be heating up so let's do a wooded hike to see a waterfall. There are numerous creek crossings so plan accordingly (waterproofing boots, practicing your rock hopping, or packing creek shoes). Plan is to hike out, enjoy the falls and eat lunch then return. We'll meet and depart from the Colonial Heights location at 9am and be at the trailhead at 10am. We should be done and back to Kingsport by late afternoon. For more info, carpooling, courtesy notice for attending so we know to look for you, contact Tim or Carrie Schaefer, 423-302-0846 or timcarrie@tehcc.org.

F/B: FunFest Moonlight Hike, Thursday, July 21, 2016

Contact: [Steve Ankastrandt](mailto:Steve.Ankabrandt@tehcc.org), 423-245-3026

Rating: *Easy 2.5 mile walk around the lake at night on Lakeside and Holly Trails.*

TEHCC has been co-sponsoring the Kingsport FunFest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park since before 1993. Over the years, this popular event has attracted larger and larger crowds. Parking space is tight up at the center; hence, in order to control the number of vehicles, this year's Moonlight Hike will again be a ticketed event with only 350 tickets being distributed. However, TEHCC volunteers helping with the event will not be required to have an entrance ticket. To minimize the number of TEHCC cars, if you have fewer than four people, then let's gather at the Eastman lodge back parking lot at 7 pm to carpool (half-hour later than last year which was a bit early). Otherwise, be at the back side of the visitor center facing the lake by 7:30 pm for badges with contact information and to discuss any additional items relevant to the hike. The hike itself kicks off at 8 pm from the dam near the visitors' center. Bring your own flashlight/headlamp (and spare batteries), water, insect repellent, and charged cell phone. TEHCC volunteers will start at the front of the walkers, and then be assigned specific intersections to direct traffic along the right path. Overall, TEHCC needs to cover roughly a dozen places with one or two people each. The event ends with a headcount back at the visitors' center by

10 pm. (Tradition is also a gift certificate to the park store for the volunteer guessing closest to the total number of people who took the hike per the official counter.) If you are interested in assisting with this event or have questions, please contact me.

Paddle to Work, Friday, July 22, 2016

Leader: [Tim Schaefer](#), 423-302-0846

Now here is something a little different. I have had this idea for a while, but never acted on it. Now it is time. Let's paddle to Eastman for our work commute! I figure we can put in at Fort Patrick Henry Dam and paddle in. We can pull ashore near B147. Then tie up the boats and head in for a day of work. After a hard day of work (flexible to leaving after lunch or later in the day) paddle back and go home. Plans are still hazy and I'm flexible on timing and details, so if you want in on the planning, contact paddle leader Tim Schaefer, 423-302-0846 or tim@tehcc.org.

APE's & TEHCC Basic Swift Water Rescue Course – July 22-24, 2016

Contact: [Scott Fischer](#) at 276-698-4644

The Basic SWR Course, sponsored by Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoe Club (TEHCC), is one in a series of swift water rescue courses offered through the American Canoe Association. The course is designed to teach basic swift water rescue techniques where limited personnel and/or safety gear is available. Instructor Scott Fisher has provided instruction to hundreds of individuals, paddling clubs, firefighters, rescue personnel, staff of church youth camps, and local outfitter guides. The clinic will include classroom instruction, river skills and realistic scenarios. *This course is open to all individuals interested in rescue courses. It is not exclusive to paddlers and will not have a strong paddling focus.*



Minimum personal equipment for class: Type III PFD, helmet, protective clothing suitable for extended swimming in cold water, protective footwear, boat & paddle (optional), whistle, throw rope, 15+ feet of one inch tubular nylon webbing, 2 locking carabiners, and 2 prusick loops (2 x 6-8 feet pieces of 4-5 millimeter polypropylene cord). ***Loaner gear may be available upon request! Please let the instructor know in advance of your equipment needs.***

Who: Adults and Minors 15 years and older. Instructors reserve the right to exclude anyone if they feel safety will be compromised.

When: Friday, July 22nd 7:00pm – 9:00pm; Sat/Sun, July 23-24th 8:00am – 7:00pm

Where: Riverpark Campground (3937 Highway 81 South, Jonesborough, TN 37659)

Cost: \$95; \$85 if already an APEs member; ACA members can further deduct \$5

Deadline: 7/16/2016

Register online at <http://www.riverapes.org/registration.html>.

Questions: Feel free to contact [Scott Fischer](#) at 276-698-4644

Konnarock Crew - Backbone Rock Trail, July 31 – Aug 2

Leader: [Carl Fritz](#), 423-477-4669

TEHCC will join with Konnarock Crew on these three days to continue the trail relocations high on the Backbone Rock Trail. TEHCC members will be staying at home and traveling each day. If interested contact Carl Fritz at atvolunteer@tehcc.org

New River Paddle/Camp Class I-II, August 5-7

Contact: [Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636

10000 U.S. Hwy 221 N, Laurel Springs, NC 28644, USA [Link to map](#)

Friday Morning: Meeting at New River State Park at 9:00AM .We'll run the shuttle then try to put-in by 11:00 at the 221 Bridge and paddle down to the State park for the first night. The New River State Park is at river mile 15, is located in Scottville, NC reached by US Hwy 221 and is 9/10 of a mile from New River Outfitters. N.R.S.P. GPS Coordinates, 36.467680,-81.340350, or the following address exactly as typed; 10000 U.S. 221, NC

Saturday:We will be paddling to Allegheny Access campsite about 12 river miles or 5hrs of paddling. This primitive campsite has no road access and is only accessible by water. There are several trails in the area so we can do some hiking either on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. Sunday:

Sunday: we will continue down the river about 4 miles or just under 2 hrs of paddling to the takeout at the NC Rt. 93 Bridge near the Mouth of Wilson. There is potable water at the campsites so there is no need to carry or treat water for camp. There is firewood available for purchase too.

Paddlers should be self contained which means you must be able to carry all your camping gear in your kayak or canoe. You will need food for dinner on Friday & Saturday and breakfast on Saturday & Sunday. I would also suggest bringing 3 lunches, one for Friday & Saturday and one for Sunday. We may take out in time for lunch Sunday, but we will be out in the boonies and there is not much purchasing options. Please confirm if you are going so I know to look for you! If you are interested in carpooling let me know that too, it may be possible

State Park Info: [New River State Park](#) River Map: [Map](#)

APE's & TEHCC Advance Swift Water Rescue Course – Aug 13, 2016

Contact: [Scott Fischer](mailto:Scott.Fischer@its.jnj.com) at 276-698-4644

Whitewater enthusiasts participate in hazardous activities in wilderness environments. Are you prepared to rescue yourself or your best paddling friend? Are they prepared to rescue you? Help in many cases may not be immediately available, and might be hours, not minutes away. If you've already had the Basic Swiftwater Rescue Class and are looking to sharpen the skills that will help keep you and those you care about safe this is your chance.

The Advanced SWR Course is one in a series of swiftwater rescue courses offered through the American Canoe Association (ACA). This course is aimed at anyone desiring the opportunity to further develop their rescue skills first learned in the Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course. Critical judgment and rescue awareness, impacting both personal and group safety, are emphasized throughout the course. Although new skills may be taught, this class focuses on developing judgment and applying skills in rescue scenarios that were first learned in the basic course. The course will be predominantly scenario based in the context of a river trip—in other words, students will be moving downriver and responding to situations encountered along the way. We feel that this is a logical progression from your previous training in the Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course and will continue to help you refine your judgment and proficiency under realistic conditions that can best be achieved in the dynamic nature of an actual river trip. Your instructor Scott Fisher is an ACA certified advanced swiftwater rescue and advanced whitewater kayak instructor and has provided instruction to hundreds of individuals, including paddlers, outfitter guides, firefighters, rescue personnel and staff of youth camps.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Reinforce skills learned in the Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course
- Practice skills during multiple scenarios
- Refine and extend critical judgment through multiple scenarios
- Develop and practice more advanced rope-based and in-water skills

COURSE PREREQUISITES: *Students are required to have completed an ACA Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course and should be comfortable on Class III water.* All paddle craft are welcome. Participants should be in good health and overall fitness, possess solid swimming ability, and be comfortable swimming in moving current during river drills. Participants should dress appropriately for weather and temperature, and should expect to be in the water for extended periods of time.

MINIMUM PERSONAL GEAR: Type III PFD designed for whitewater use (Rescue PFD is recommended but not required), whitewater helmet, protective clothing suitable for extended swimming in cold water, protective footwear, boat, paddle, whistle, throw rope, 15+ feet of one inch tubular nylon webbing, 2 locking carabiners, and 2 prusik loops (2 x 6-8 feet pieces of 4-5 millimeter polypropylene cord)

Where: Friday: Nolichucky Gorge Campground, Erwin, TN; Saturday: Nolichucky Gorge

When: August 12-13 (evening only on 12th)

Cost: \$70; APEs members can deduct \$10; ACA members can further deduct \$5 (**Non-Refundable after Aug 6th unless replacement found**)

Time: Fri: 6:00–9:00 P.M.; Sat: 8:00 A.M.–6:00 P.M. (EST)

Camping: Nolichucky Gorge Campground, Erwin, TN **Note:** We will camp together as a group Fri eve

Class Size: Class will be limited to 10 participants

REGISTRATION: There are two ways to register:

1. **Online:** Register online at <http://www.riverapes.org/registration.html>. After submitting your registration you will be directed to <http://www.riverapes.org/paypal-1.html> to pay for the course using PayPal. Your online registration will also double for your APE's membership form.

2. **Mail:** [Click Here to download the PDF Registration Form](#) and mail in with **payment made out to APEs to Scott Fisher: 109 Highland Gate Dr., Johnson City, TN 37615 by 8/6/2016.** No need to fill out and send in a separate membership form. Your registration form will also double for your APE's membership form.

ONLINE NOTE: Courses not listed in Registration Course Menu are full. Please contact Scott at TFisher1@its.jnj.com to be placed on waiting list.

Questions: Feel free to contact Scott at (276) 698-4644 or e-mail tfisher1@its.jnj.com

APE's & TEHCC Beginner Whitewater Kayak Course, Aug 20-21

Contact: [Ryan Shealy](mailto:Ryan.Shealy@its.jnj.com) at 423-963-6066

If you've ever thought how much fun it would be to learn how to kayak now's your chance!! The Beginner Whitewater Kayak Course, sponsored by the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club, will be held August 29th and 30th in the Tri-Cities area. The clinic is designed for anyone wanting to learn the fundamentals of whitewater kayaking that will ensure a fun and safe time on the river. No previous experience is necessary. Instruction will consist of one day on flat water and one day on the river. As in the past, there will continue to be a strong emphasis on safety. Participants will be responsible for providing their own gear and transportation, although loaner gear is available on a first come basis.

Minimum required gear: Whitewater kayak, double-bladed (kayak) paddle, whitewater helmet, spray skirt, PFD (life jacket), closed toe water shoes or booties (sneakers are fine, but they'll get wet). It is recommended that each student bring a wicking type shirt (no cotton) to wear while on the water, sunscreen and a rain jacket. Students are responsible for their lunch, water/sports drinks.

Schedule:

August 20th (Saturday) Lake instruction, 8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

Location: Warrior's Path State Park.

Students must participate on Saturday to participate on Sunday.

August 21st (Sunday) River Trip, class II, 8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

Location: Lower Nolichucky River.

Note: Instructors reserve the right to exclude anyone if they believe safety will be compromised.

Cost: \$75.00 per student (which includes a \$5 ACA event membership fee and a \$10 APEs membership fee). If you are already a member of either organization deduct that portion of the cost.

REGISTRATION: There are two ways to register:

1. **Online:** Register online at <http://www.riverapes.org/registration.html>. After submitting your registration you will be directed to <http://www.riverapes.org/paypal-1.html> to pay for the course using PayPal. Your online registration will also double for your APE's membership form.

2. **Mail:** [Click Here to download the PDF Registration Form](#) and mail in with **payment made out to APEs to Ryan Shealy: 215 Hawk Street, Blountville, TN 37617** by **8/13/2016**. No need to fill out and send in a separate membership form. Your registration form will also double for your APE's membership form.

ONLINE NOTE: Courses not listed in Registration Course Menu are full. Please contact Ryan at orion9909@yahoo.com to be placed on waiting list.

QUESTIONS: Contact Ryan at orion9909@yahoo.com or 423-963-6066

Babes On The Waves Annual Pigeon Trip, Aug 20-22

Hey Gals, it's time!! Time to get together and have our Annual "Babes On The Waves" River Run! We're making it a double trip on the Pigeon River again this year, staggering an Upper and Lower run! *August 19-21 at Joanne's in Cosby, TN; River Trips, Saturday, August 20 at NOC, 3485 Hartford Rd, Hartford, TN. If you can't stay the weekend and just want to paddle, simply meet us Saturday at the NOC.... Upper Trip (Class II-III) meeting at 11:30 led by Jennifer Bradley; Lower Trip (Class I-II) meeting at 3:00 led by Debbie Briscoe. After we're off the river, we can go out to eat in Newport where some may choose to go home or go back to Joanne's. Once a year all the female APE'ettes come together to rule the river. All are welcome, even you guys who don't want to be left out, we don't discriminate, but it's our day and we want to get as many female paddlers out on the water as we can! So all you gals out there plan to join us on the water Saturday, August 19th and bring your fellow if he dares! *Gals only are invited to stay the weekend at Jo's condo for a fun girl weekend from Friday after 5:00 thru Sunday. Bring snacks and breakfast, sleeping bags and pillows! There are plenty of beds and a pull out couch and cots. Sunday: Joanne wants us gals to enjoy a day at the pool before we head home. So don't forget your bathing suits! *Please contact Deb to confirm that you want to stay at Jo's and to get directions and the address.

Deb, 423-534-3636 or email ldcakes@hotmail.com

For the Record

The Great Channels of Virginia, May 28, 2016

Tim & Carrie Schaefer reporting

Wow! What a unique place to find in South West Virginia. If you have not yet been there, please consider this for a future outing. We have the details you need to find it [on our wiki](#). The hike to The Channels is largely uphill on a private road (do not block the access when parking!) and not very special. Things take a turn for the better when you split with Brumley Mountain Trail and head to the peak past the old fire tower and cabin. Continue past the tower and head into the Channels. The Channels themselves are a maze of sandstone boulders with crevices over 20 feet deep. The children and adults enjoyed at least an hour exploring all of the "fat man squeezes," tunnels, and hidden pockets. Attending this hike were the Schaefer family; Mike, Yuyan, and Frankie Zimmerman; and Rick and Mary Ellen Virost.



Walking in the Channels



View from Above



The View Atop the Channels

Gardens of Roan and Roan High Bluff, June 12, 2016

Tim & Carrie Schaefer reporting

In an effort to beat the crowds, we scheduled this trip for the week prior to the actual festival. It backfired a little this year as the blooms were just starting to open up. Hearing stories of taking an hour to get through the State Park and up to Carvers on the festival weekend, I'm still happy with our decision. We wandered the Gardens of Roan enjoying the cool breeze. After exploring the gardens we took the extra trip to the Roan High Bluffs for the windiest view in the area. The kids enjoyed launching leaves over everyone's heads by trying to throw them over the edge and having them blow back. Attending this hike were the Schaefer Family, Steve and Kim Ankabrandt, Gerald Scott, and Chuck Klein.



Premature Rhododendrons →

A.T.: Deep Gap to Hughes Gap, June 25, 2016

Tim Schaefer reporting

We had a bit of "irrational exuberance" when making some last minute adjustments to our hike plan. Looking to save some time, we decided to do a key swap. Excited about the extra two hours of shuttling removed, we tacked on an extra 5.5 miles and extended to Hughes Gap. It also had the benefit of setting up what should be a nice trip over the Roan Highlands in the next two trips, with the Yellow Mountain Barn Shelter as the in-between terminus. This section hike offered extremely comfortable weather and great views of Unaka Mountain. That is until we had to climb over it. We finished the day at around 17 miles of hiking. A long one indeed! If you're interested in participating in these hikes (I promise more reasonable ones in the future!), please contact tim@tehcc.org to participate in the planning and coordination. To better help plan the hikes going forward, I created a [wiki page](#) where I plan to list upcoming hikes as well as provide hike details including maps, parking locations, and profile views. Attending this hike were Tim Schaefer, Tim McClain, Steve Ankabrandt, and Ryan Ankabrandt.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 5/23/2016

Purpose: Attend Wilderness Skills Institute course

Location: Cradle of Forestry, Brevard, NC

People: Paul Benfield

Summary: The week of May 23-27, I attended the course, Crosscut Saw Restoration and Sharpening, offered by the Wilderness Skills Institute at Cradle of Forestry near Brevard, NC.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 5/28/2016

Purpose: Check section

Location: Section 11b, Moreland Gap Shelter to Canute Place

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: With the exception of the recent fire, the trail and surrounding area was in pretty good condition. The fire jumped the trail in several places, but wasn't too bad overall. I cleared a couple of small blowdowns. The rake, broom and shovel were still at the shelter. I replaced the shelter log and cleaned out the fire pit. Thru-hikers were still hiking through the area.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 5/31/2016

Purpose: Check trail and shelter

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters

Summary: We hiked out to check the shelter and trail. I thought that the majority of thru-hikers were past our area, but we must have met a dozen or so on this trip. The trail was in good shape, but the weeds are growing and should probably be cut within the next 2-3 weeks. We placed a new log book and cleaned up at the shelter, which was surprisingly free of trash except for the

obligatory aluminium foil in the fire pit and a piece of discarded clothing. We dismantled two extra fire pits at the shelter area and one along the trail. The big orange box is gone! Thank-you Forest Service for taking care of that. We heard thunder and saw evidence of rain, but we stayed in the dry.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/2/2016

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 5, Just south of TN 91

People: Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: Bob and Joe trashed the sides of a couple of staircases so hikers could not easily avoid the steps. Also, they, along with Tim and Carl, tried to fix an occasionally muddy section by adding a couple of waterbars and some fill of wood and rocks.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/2/2016

Purpose: Build fence

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Mark Dibble, Carl Fritz, Danny Harper, Pat Loven, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, Matthew Gilbert

Summary: With skilled help we were able to complete the almost 1800-foot fence, including four wildlife stiles and a strand of barbed wire above the woven wire. Only one gate remains to be installed after it is purchased. This fence will allow the cattle to access a hill which cannot be safely mowed with a tractor. Funding was provided by Tennessee A.T. License Plates.



Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 6/4/2016

Purpose: Rare Plant Monitoring

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

People: Dan Firth

Summary: I monitored several populations of rare plants located on the section including pink lady slipper and round-leaf watercress. The lady slipper populations were found but the watercress was not evident.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 6/5/2016

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Stan Murray Shelter

People: Lynn DiFiore

Summary: I used loppers and a swingblade to knock back the briars along this section. I removed a moderate amount of trash from the barn, including a half-dozen mason jars from the new brewery in Spruce Pine. A massive thunderstorm cut the trip short (and also caused the loss of my swingblade as I left it leaning against the car when I left). I met a few thru-hikers and lots of day hikers.

Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 6/5/2016

Purpose: Inspect trail; remove trash

Location: Section 10, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail

People: Dean Baird

Summary: I removed trash and inspected the trail. I noted plant growth under the powerline and plan to trim this ASAP.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/6/2016

Purpose: Exchange fence materials

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Carl Fritz, Mary Jane Fritz

Summary: Some fencing supplies needed to be exchanged at Osborne Farm. After several years, I remembered to take paint for another blaze north at Low Gap.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 6/6/2016

Purpose: Trail maintenance

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

People: Brian Paley

Summary: I cut weeds and multi-flora rose bushes along the A.T. from US 321 to the Forest Service gate. I cleared seven blowdowns (three step-overs, three duck-under, and one walk around) between Shook Branch and the Watauga Shelter.

Reporting: Bill Hodge

Date: 6/7/2016

Purpose: Deliver new Wilderness Information Kiosk Signs and Remove Old Bridge Stringers

Location: Section 10, Dennis Cove Trailhead

People: Bill Hodge, Ryan Mariano, Collin Massman, Adrienne Wang, Dory Lustig, Mason Hicks, Vanessa Medford

Summary: We loaded two signs at the Watauga Work Center; then delivered and unloaded the signs at Dennis Cove. We also carried out three pieces of old bridge stringers from last year's bridge project.

Reporting: Bill Hodge

Date: 6/8/2016

Purpose: Install and deliver new information signs

Location: Sections 10 and 5, Dennis Cove Trailhead and Cross Mountain

People: Bill Hodge, Ryan Mariano, Collin Massman, Dory Lustig, Adrienne Wang, Mason Hicks, Vanessa Medford

Summary: Working with the Watauga District Staff, we installed two new Wilderness information kiosks at the Dennis Cove Trailhead, and delivered and hiked in a new Wilderness information kiosk at Cross Mountain.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield

Date: 6/8/2016

Purpose: Maintain Double Springs Shelter

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

People: Kim Peters, Terry Oldfield

Summary: We hiked in from TN 91, making note of the new, well-constructed fence on Osborne Farm. On the way, we cut briars and observed two blowdowns across the trail that are too large to cut with a handsaw. The blowdowns are about 2 miles in from TN 91. At the shelter, we picked up trash, dismantled a fire ring, and left a new log book. The water source was running well. We hiked back, leaving the shelter crowded with thru-hikers stopping in for lunch. It was a beautiful day.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 6/9/2016

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Stan Murray Shelter

People: Lynn DiFiore, Mike Brickell

Summary: I returned to look for my missing swingblade (which was not found). Luckily I had already anticipated this and brought a new one to finish up. The A.T. SCENIC TRAIL sign has been stolen; the nails and corners are all that remain. We removed trash from the barn, and met a father and son setting up camp in the field at the barn and cutting live limbs with a hatchet. So I gave a brief "LNT" talk and showed them where they could find down and dead wood. There were many hikers in the barn and in the field.

Reporting: Bill Hodge

Date: 6/9/2016

Purpose: Install new sign and remove old bridge stringers

Location: Sections 5 and 10, Cross Mountain and Dennis Cove Trailheads

People: Katie Currier, Ryan Mariano, Collin Massman, Dory Lustig, Adrienne Wang, Mason Hicks, Vanessa Medford

Summary: The SAWS/United States Naval Academy Crew installed a new information kiosk about 100 yards south of the Cross Mountain Trailhead. Then they went to Dennis Cove, hiked in to Coons Ford and cut up old bridge stringers with crosscut saws and hand-carried them out.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/9/2016

Purpose: Fix fence and rehab trail

Location: Section 14c, Jane Bald to Carvers Gap, primarily

People: Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Danny Harper, Becky Kinder, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Kim Peters, Mike Price, Gayle Riddervold, Kevin Sedgwick, George Thorpe; Hikers: Yaakov "Trek" Reef, Ronald "Stryder" Stuart

Summary: It was a gorgeous day on Round Bald with rhodo buds just opening. Many people and dogs were out viewing. We repaired barb wire fences back to original quality. We added many dead limbs and trees to the newly created paths and raked gravel back onto the trail. Many of waterbars were lengthened so they are not easily walked around. Part of the crew rehabbed trail just north of Engine Gap. Several took time to cut a blowdown a half-mile south of Cloudland. More work remains for later this summer.

Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 6/9/2016

Purpose: Clean trail under power lines

Location: Section 10, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail

People: Dean Baird, Jennifer Baird

Summary: We cut weeds and trimmed brush away from the trail in the area under the power lines.

Reporting: Bill Hodge

Date: 6/10/2016

Purpose: Clear annual vegetation growth from the trail corridor

Location: Section 7, North of Wilbur Dam Road

People: Katie Currier, Ryan Mariano, Collin Massman, Dory Lustig, Adrienne Wang, Mason Hicks, Vanessa Medford

Summary: The SAWS/United States Naval Academy Crew hiked in and brushed thoroughly the trail corridor from the top of the switchbacks north of Wilbur Dam Road. The crew brushed a total of 2.5 miles of rhodo and annual vegetation growth.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 6/10/2016

Purpose: Trail Inspection

Location: Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to Deep Gap

People: Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We cut a multi-limbed tree from the trail and checked weed growth in Beauty Spot, Beauty Spot Gap, and Deep Gap. Beauty Spot looked good, but Beauty Spot Gap needs mowing now. We picked up trash at the Beauty Spot parking area.

Reporting: Kenneth Buchanan

Date: 6/10/2016

Purpose: Remove reported blowdowns

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

People: Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan, Anita Long, Laura Jack

Summary: Kim had reported a couple of significant blowdowns on this section. So, I recruited some more or less willing workers, supplied them with tools and promises of free lunch and off we went. We removed the blowdowns, cut a multitude of "greenbrars" (briers for the "not from around here") and a few weeds, and saw 12-15 hikers. This time, the hikers were impressed by my crew. Another fine day to be out hiking.

Reporting: Bill Hodge

Date: 6/13/2016

Purpose: Start brushing trail corridor between Iron Mountain Shelter and Vandeventer Shelter

Location: Section 6, First mile south of Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Katie Currier, Ryan Mariano, Collin Massman, Dory Lustig, Adrienne Wang, Mason Hicks, Vanessa Medford

Summary: The SAWS/United States Naval Academy Crew hiked in from TN 91, established camp by the Iron Mountain Shelter and started working on brushing the first mile south of the shelter. This was the first day of a five-day maintenance trip.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 6/13/2016

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the camping area at the Overmountain Shelter and cut weeds around the shelter and trails.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 6/13/2016

Purpose: Maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farn

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds at the Appalachian Trail and the Accessible Trail as needed on Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Bill Hodge

Date: 6/15/2016

Purpose: Brush and log-out trail corridor south of Iron Mountain Shelter

Location: Section 6, First three miles south of Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Katie Currier, Ryan Mariano, Collin Massman, Dory Lustig, Adrienne Wang, Mason Hicks, Vanessa Medford

Summary: The SAWS/United States Naval Academy Crew worked to thoroughly brush the first three miles south of Iron Mountain Shelter and to remove trees down across the trail. The work involved loppers, sling-blades, hand saws and crosscut saws.

Reporting: Bill Hodge

Date: 6/16/2016

Purpose: Annual maintenance of vegetation and downed trees

Location: Section 6, Middle two miles between Iron Mountain and Vandeventer Shelters

People: Katie Currier, Ryan Mariano, Collin Massman, Dory Lustig, Adrienne Wang, Mason Hicks, Vanessa Medford

Summary: We worked to brush the middle two miles between the shelters and moved camp to the Vandeventer Shelter (gap by water source).

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/16/2016

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 18, Unaka Mountain near FS 230

People: Daryl Anderson, Ken Buchanan, Robin Dean, Carl Fritz, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We started some trail rehab north of Deep Gap. Mostly, we removed problem rocks, straightened trail and added many rock steps and rock cribbing. This is the start of multiple work days here. It was about 15 degrees cooler here than in the low country.

Reporting: Bill Hodge

Date: 6/17/2016

Purpose: Annual vegetation management

Location: Section 6, First three miles north of Vandeventer Shelter

People: Katie Currier, Ryan Mariano, Collin Massman, Dory Lustig, Adrienne Wang, Mason Hicks, Vanessa Medford

Summary: This crew brushed and logged-out the first three miles north of Vandeventer Shelter with loppers, sling-blades, hand saws and crosscut saws.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/17/2016

Purpose: Check shelter

Location: Section 16a, Clyde Smith Shelter

People: Jim Foster, Carl Fritz

Summary: We inspected the shelter roof. It is still leaking; so we developed plans for repairs. We also removed a cart that had been abandoned at the shelter for weeks.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 6/18/2016

Purpose: Paint Abingdon Gap Shelter

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

People: Phyllis Cairnes, Rolla Wade, Tim Stewart, Lori Mirrer, Jim Floyd, Kim Peters

Summary: The June "3rd Saturday Hiking with Tools" trip was a little different as our tools consisted of paint brushes and rollers. On this wonderfully cool day, we started out from McQueens's Gap and hiked about a mile in to Abingdon Gap shelter carrying three cans of paint, tools to apply it, and a section of gutter to replace the front gutter on the shelter. We scraped and cleaned the surfaces, painted the inside and outside and replaced the gutter on the front. Tim climbed up on the roof with caulking and made another attempt to stop the persistent leak. There were hikers at the shelter when we arrived, and more stopped in for lunch or were passing through to Damascus. It was a lovely day to be out in the woods. Hopefully it will be some time before graffiti begins to appear on the freshly painted surfaces. Many thanks to this fine crew for working so hard and another special thanks to Lori who again drove 3 hours from Charlotte to join us (and then had to drive 3 hours home afterwards!).

Abingdon Gap Shelter:
Before and After



Reporting: Bill Hodge

Date: 6/18/2016

Purpose: Hike out following 5-day maintenance trip

Location: Section 6, Hike out to Wilbur Dam Road

People: Katie Currier, Ryan Mariano, Collin Massman, Dory Lustig, Adrienne Wang, Mason Hicks, Vanessa Medford

Summary: After spending five days working on annual vegetation issues and cutting out blowdowns between the Vandeventer Shelter and the Iron Mountain Shelter, the SAWS/United States Naval Academy Crew packed up camp and hiked out to Wilbur Dam Road. There they were met by Congressman Phil Roe who thanked them for their work.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 6/18/2016

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 1, TN/VA state line to Backbone Rock Trail

People: Ken Murray

Summary: I conducted routine summer vegetation control in areas where vegetation impinges on the trail.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 6/19/2016

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Pat Buchanan, Ken Buchanan, Kim Peters

Summary: Kim and Ken used string trimmers to cut the weeds on this section while Pat followed behind with loppers cutting rhododendron and greenbrier. We recovered some loppers at the shelter that had been left behind by the SAWS group last week. We met quite a few hikers, including a large group of ten from Wilderness Trail. This section is now in good shape for the summer.

Reporting: Pat Loven

Date: 6/19/2016

Purpose: Trail maintenance

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Road to Canute Place

People: Pat Loven, Karen Loven

Summary: We drove to Dennis Cove this afternoon for a hike with tools. We found that the vegetation along the trail was much heavier than expected, including more nettle than usual. About 1 3/4 miles up the mountain, we cleared a trail-blocking blowdown with a hand saw, except for a 12" stepover. We didn't have time to go farther. We'll return later with a chainsaw and work the remainder of this section.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 6/19/2016

Purpose: Summer vegetation management

Location: Section 20b, Devils Creek Gap to Temple Hill Gap

People: Ken Murray, Lotta Murray, Jenny Eckenrode

Summary: We clipped rhododendrons.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 6/20/2016

Purpose: Trim trail

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob

People: Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: We started trimming the trail at Hughes Gap and were making good time at Little Rock Knob when our string-trimmer decided to call it a day. No amount of coaxing and cussing could get it going again. So we'll have to finish another time.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 6/21/2016

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

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

People: Ken Murray

Summary: I worked on vegetation control on far (inaccessible) part of Section 20b.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: 6/21/2016

Purpose: Check trail

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

People: Bob Peoples

Summary: Bob walked both the A.T. and shelter trail. He found only one blowdown and he will get it soon. He lopped any problem growth. Waycaster spring is dry. A couple of places near the shelter need some trail rehab later this year. There was some sign of vandalism at the junction with the Hampton Blue-Blaze trail.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 6/22/2016

Purpose: Clear trail

Location: Section 12d, Trail South of Campbell Hollow Road

People: Kevin Sedgwick

Summary: I weed-whacked the northern end of the section. I met lots of hikers.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 6/23/2016

Purpose: Finish trimming trail

Location: Section 16a, Little Rock Knob to Greasy Creek Gap

People: Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: We finished the trimming that we started Monday. It was a good day, although very humid.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/23/2016

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 18, South of Unaka Mountain

People: Daryel Anderson, John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Robin Dean, Carl Fritz, Danny Harper, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: With a great crew and temperatures maxing out at 70 rather than 90 like in low country, we continued rehab, adding many rock steps, rock cribbing and log cribbing. There are many more work days in this area. Most were able to attend a departing party for Reuben Potter at the Laurels.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 6/23/2016

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We walked up as far as the power lines, trimming back rhododendrons, overhanging branches, and weeds. Several dead logs that had been hanging over or onto the trail were also cut. When we got up toward the power lines, there were two new blowdowns. One tree was cut and removed. The other tree which was completely uprooted was too big for us to saw. It is difficult for someone of short stature to hike over the fallen tree. Other hikers have hiked around the roots, or below the side of the trail, causing a little bit of erosion trying to get around it. The last blowdown had already been reported in a previous maintenance report. We attempted to cut it but after 45 minutes of sawing, we gave up.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 6/25/2016

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to Watauga Shelter

People: Brian Paley

Summary: I lopped the trail from Wilbur Dam Road to past the shelter. I cleared a couple small blowdowns, and recorded two larger blowdowns just before the shelter (24-inch and 7-inch climb-overs). The shelter looks to be in good shape, but needs a new rake (or at least a new handle for the rake). The changes at the base of the bear pole look good. On the way back, I hiked the new access trail to the Watauga Visitor Center. It also has a large blowdown near the top.