



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

August 2016

tehcc.org

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New Staff at ATC Deep South Office

Written by Vic Hasler based on ATC electronic newsletter articles

Our local supporting Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) office in Asheville, NC has succeeded in filling two more personnel openings in recent months. As background for newer club members, the ATC staff is organized into a national office in Harpers Ferry, WV and four field offices for New England, Mid-Atlantic, Central and Southwest Virginia, and Deep South regions. The regional offices provide assistance with trail and land management, training, and financial resources to the 31 Trail-maintaining clubs. Abbreviated reference to our local staff is SORO short for Southern Region Office. Current staffing is Morgan Summerville (director), Leanna Joyner and Sean Ogle (trail management), Matt Drury (resources management), Julie Judkins (community programs), and Amanda Wheelock (office administrator). TEHCC interacts frequently with these folks to address

challenges and issues for the Trail.

Sean Ogle, SORO Trail Resources Manager II

Sean joined the Asheville ATC office in May (replacing Chris Binder). Sean grew up in Knoxville, taking advantage of the incredible natural resources of the region by hiking, backpacking, and kayaking from a young age. Since graduating from the University of Tennessee, he has worked in conservation from Florida to Arizona. In 2014, Sean created the Smoky Mountain Corps, a residential conservation and sustainability corps program based in North Carolina which runs conservation and leadership *training crews for young adults*. Main duties will involve volunteer training and administration of the S.W.E.A.T. and Rocky Top trail crews.

Matt Drury, Resource Management Coordinator

Matt joined the SORO staff in June (replacing Amy Snyder). He was born in Louisville, KY and moved to western North Carolina in 1997 to attend Warren Wilson College and receive a B.A. in Environmental Studies with a Sustainable Forestry Concentration. He has worked in land management, restoration ecology, forestry, prescribed and wildland fire, trails, and ornithology for a variety of governmental, private, and non-profit organizations across the U.S. He also spent 3.5 years in Peace Corps Vanuatu doing agro-forestry and conservation. Most recently, Matt was the Yancey County Ranger with the North Carolina Forest Service. Matt's primary responsibilities with ATC are invasive exotic plant control, vegetation management in open areas, and rare plant and phenology monitoring. He will also be providing volunteer training to help complete these tasks.



Laurel Fork Shelter Closure

Vic Hasler reporting

Laurel Fork Shelter is temporarily closed because of the July 8th high wind storm. While the good news is that there is very limited damage to the shelter, there are two oak trees and a large locust tree laying on roof. The major concern is a hazard tree in front of the shelter, which will require an expert sawyer from USFS to remove. Closure signs have been posted at the shelter trail junctions. Please do not plan to visit or even stay in its vicinity until the storm damage has been safely cleared.



USA Raft New Location in Kingsport

Andrea Gass reporting

Interested in paddling but don't want to commit to buying a host of gear just to try it out? USA Raft has opened a new location in Kingsport at Netherland Inn where you can book your trip or simply rent equipment for your next river adventure! USA Raft has rental equipment such as tubes, bellyaks, stand up paddle boards, inflatable kayaks (ducks), and tandem inflatable kayaks. They will also offer trips and shuttle for either the North or the South Fork of the Holston. If you're interested in learning more, please visit www.USARaft.com or contact Andrea Gass at andreamsey@eastman.com. See You On The River!

Looking for a way to beat the summer heat? Come cool off on the Holston river with USA Raft!

All Trips meet at Netherland Inn Museum
2144 Netherland Inn Rd Kingsport TN

Tubing Prices
(per person)
Tube rental & shuttle \$17
Bellyaks, SUP Boards, and Ducks \$23
Double Ducks \$33
10am - 6pm daily
Group Rates Available

USA RAFT
800-USA-RAFT
USARaft.com

See you on the river!

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Robert Pryately

Matthew Ewers

Rickey Treadway

Jenna Eason

Meredith Boatner

Jackie Wilson

Jessica Astacio

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
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 20	APE's Beginner Whitewater Kayak Course	Ryan Shealy	423-963-6066
Aug 13	A.T.: Yellow Mountain Barn Shelter to 19E	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846
Aug 21	Babes On The Waves Annual Pigeon Trip	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
Aug 27	APE's Picnic & First Timer's Trips		
Sept - TBD	A.T.: 19E to Walnut Mountain Rd	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846
September 16	French Broad/ Hot Spring Campout & River Run	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
September 24	AT Family Hiking Day	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388

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](#), 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](#), 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](#), 423-366-0128

This month we divide into two groups and will be working on two adjacent sections, the 2.8 mile section of trail between Campbell Hollow Rd. and Sugar Hollow Creek and the 4 mile section between Sugar Hollow Creek and Walnut Mt. Rd. The primary tasks will be cutting annual growth, cleaning water bars and clearing any blowdowns. The first section includes Jones Falls which should provide a lovely cool place to enjoy lunch and the second section includes Mountaineer Falls Shelter which is one of the newest shelters on our section. All tools will be provided. Participants will need to bring work gloves, wear sturdy walking shoes and bring food, water and appropriate clothing for the weather. The primary meeting place will be in front of the Parkway Discount Wine & Liquor Store on S. Roan St. in Johnson City at 8:30 am. Other meeting places can be arranged with prior notice. Contact [Kim Peters](#) if you want to come out and help and where you want to meet by Wednesday, August 17 so that she can have enough tools for everyone.

Scheduled Events

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](#) 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](#) 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'ttes 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

A.T.: Yellow Mountain Barn Shelter to 19E, Saturday, August 13, 2016

Leader: Tim Schaefer, 423-302-0846

This will be the fifth "August edition" to the plan to hike the TEHCC maintained section of the A.T.. We will start at the Overmountain Victory Trail to connect to the barn shelter. Then continue over the Humps. The hike will be around 13 miles. We should have enough attendees to handle shuttling so this is your chance to hike it without doing it twice (out-and-back). The last two trips had been key swaps, but given the short trail head drive time of 16 minutes, we will likely group hike it. We will try to minimize the number of vehicles at the departure trail head to ensure people have options of hiking their own pace if we need to split up. All of our planning and post-trip documenting can be found at http://tehcc.org/wiki/Hike_Plans:2016_TEHCC_AT. To be involved with the planning, picking the date, and kept on a mailing list for discussions, contact Tim Schaefer, 423-302-0846 or tim@tehcc.org.

A.T.: 19E to Walnut Mountain Rd, Saturday, TBD, 2016

Leader: Tim Schaefer, 423-302-0846

This will be the sixth "September edition" to the plan to hike the TEHCC maintained section of the A.T.. We will start at 19E and hike our way to Walnut Mountain Rd. This section should include a view of Jones Falls and the Mountaineer Falls Shelter. At a planned 10mi, it may be a shortest of the series. We should have enough attendees to handle shuttling so this is your chance to hike it without doing it twice (out-and-back). All of our planning and post-trip documenting can be found at http://tehcc.org/wiki/Hike_Plans:2016_TEHCC_AT. To be involved with the planning, picking the date and kept on a mailing list for discussions, contact Tim Schaefer, 423-302-0846 or tim@tehcc.org.

For the Record

F/B: Gentry Creek Falls, July 16, 2016

Tim & Carrie Schaefer reporting

This outing was a creek hopper indeed. I believe the "official" count was 15 hops each way. I think everyone suffered at least one slip and dunk of a shoe. The trail itself is very clear and self explanatory. We didn't see any turn offs, although I thought there might have been a connector up to the Rogers Ridge Horse Trail that I did last year as a fall color hike. You basically park along Gentry Creek and hike upstream to the falls. The falls were flowing well from the recent rain and are a beautiful double falls. We didn't venture up to the splash pool separating them. Regardless it was a great day of fun and exercise. Joining us today was the Schaefer family (Tim, Carrie, Jamie, Bob, and Josie) and Emily Watson.

A.T.: Overmountain Shelter to Hughes Gap, July 23, 2016

Tim Schaefer reporting

This turned out to be (mostly) the hike I have been waiting for. It was a beautiful day and a great way to escape the heat of lower elevations. We did this hike as a key swap; which was a confusing process, with the number of cars, people, and carpooling, and it took awhile to figure out. The group I was in, started at the Yellow Mountain Gap connection. After a winding drive up a dirt road, we arrived at a parking spot with a 0.8-mile hike to the Barn (Overmountain Shelter) and A.T. connection. We stopped at the Barn for the views and some brief exploring before heading out Trail-south. It wasn't much later that we were rewarded with our goal, the hike along the Roan Balds. Descending into Carvers Gap, we saw some rescue team activity headed back the way we came. This is also where we crossed paths with the opposing team. We returned keys to their owners, explained the parking details, and headed off in our respective directions. After hiking the balds, the climb up Roan was a drastic change. We often commented how the first-time Roan visitors in the Northbound team must have completely changed their opinions of the hike after meeting and swapping keys. We were rewarded with a view of a Gray's Lily atop Roan. Upon our descent of Roan to Hughes Gap, we had a not-so-refreshing downpour soaking us all. I haven't heard yet, at the time of this writing, if the Northbound team suffered a similar event. Hiking on this trip was the Northbound team of Steve and RJ Ankabrandt, Jason and Aneta Clark, and Stacy LaBare. The Southbound team was made up of Tim Schaefer, Tim McClain, Charlie Outlaw, Kristjan Lepp, and Kris and Kari Gyori.



Southbound team of Tim M., Charlie, Kris, Kari, and Kristjan (Tim S., photographer) at the Barn



The meeting of the two hiking teams at Carvers Gap, with the exception of Kris and Kari Gyori



Gray's Lily at the Cloudland Hotel site



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 6/24/2016

Purpose: Brush trail

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Little Hump

People: Lynn DiFiore, Vern Maddux

Summary: We used the string trimmer and loppers to brush the trail from the Barn to Little Hump before impending thunderstorms turned us back. We removed a small amount of trash from the Barn and the campsites along the trail and placed a new register in the shelter.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 6/26/2016

Purpose: Brush trail

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Bradley Gap

People: Lynn DiFiore, Brian Schloff

Summary: We had plenty of practice carrying the string trimmer as we hauled it up to Little Hump to pick up where we stopped on Friday. We brushed the remainder of the trail to Bradley Gap and cut out one large blowdown. We removed a small amount of trash from the campsites and replaced the A.T. sign trail-south of the Overmountain Trail. Very few hikers were out.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 6/27/2016

Purpose: Weed-whack and clear trail

Location: Section 12d, Middle of section from Campbell Hollow Road to US 19E

People: Kevin Sedgwick

Summary: The great weed-whack tour moved on to the middle part of the section. Grass, rose, and weeds are growing well this summer, which took a lot of effort to clear. Poison ivy is abundant. I saw 12 hikers; one flip-flopper.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 6/29/2016

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Mountaineer Falls Shelter

People: Ted Malone, Steve Wilson

Summary: The goal of this outing was to cut two blowdowns and to visit Mountaineer Falls Shelter. We were able to remove one of the trees, but not the second which was a 16-inch locust tree. The chainsaw was not up to the task. We plan to return within a few days to finish cutting the locust tree.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 6/29/2016

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 13, North of Doll Flats
People: Bob Peoples, Jim Chambers
Summary: We removed two large blowdowns.

Reporting: Eric Middlemas
Date: 6/29/2016

Purpose: Summer maintenance

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

People: Eric Middlemas, Judy Middlemas, Jeannine Edwards, Rich Ritter, Scott Thomsen, Tim Shipley, Bruce Darby, David Polon, Wayne Jones, Janice Miller, Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Mike Hupko, Marsha Hupko

Summary: We mowed weeds and woody growth along the sides of the trail from the FS 230 switchback to Indian Grave Gap. We also removed small, encroaching branches with loppers, cleaned out waterbars, and removed trash.

Reporting: Joe Morris
Date: 6/30/2016

Purpose: Routine Maintenance and Switchback Rehab

Location: Section 9b, Hampton trailhead to Pond Mountain

People: Robin Dean, Joe Morris

Summary: "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry." Robin and I headed to Pond Mountain to fix a switchback that had been compromised. We cut seasonal growth in the gorge and ran into a substantial blowdown as the trail turned left and started up Pond Mtn. We made the blowdown passable with the small Corona saw and continued up Pond to fix the switchback.

Unfortunately, a 3-step staircase, installed last fall with the regular Thursday crew, had failed. We started over, re-building the staircase and added 3 additional steps. Section hikers, Xanadu and Litter-Bug, had stayed with Bob Peoples the night before and they arrived at the work site just in time to help move our biggest rock of the day. Opportunities for improvement remain in this general area; however, waiting for cooler temps is advised, as it was very hot on Pond.

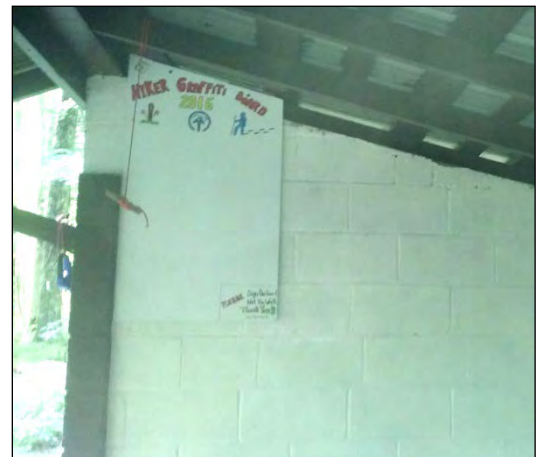
Reporting: Kim Peters
Date: 6/30/2016

Purpose: Install graffiti board and sign

Location: Section 2b, Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Ken Murray, Lotta Murray, Kim Peters

Summary: Lotta Murray kindly volunteered to make a graffiti board for Abingdon Gap Shelter similar to the one she made earlier for No Business Knob Shelter. The concept of a graffiti board is to provide a place for hikers to leave their marks without writing on the shelter walls. The board can then be painted over each year rather than having to repaint the entire shelter. Since Abingdon Gap Shelter has recently been painted and is graffiti free, it is a perfect place to test this concept. Ken volunteered to hike out with me and install the board. We also brought along the refurbished wooden sign which was removed on the last trip. At McQueen's Gap as we were unloading the car, we encountered a large group of about 12 hikers from Florida who were doing a section hike from Roan Mountain to Troutdale. We leapfrogged with them up the trail to the shelter where they took a break and watched us install the graffiti board and the sign. Although Ken encouraged the hikers to be the first to write on the board, they declined as they said they were not staying there. The freshly painted walls of the shelter are still free of graffiti and hopefully this new board will help keep it that way.



Reporting: Gayle Riddervold
Date: 7/1/2016

Purpose: Trim weeds at trailhead

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: The overgrown grass was cut from the 19E trailhead to the bridge at the creek and beyond with a lawnmower. We also trimmed around the boulders at the parking area and checked for trash, but did not see any garbage.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick
Date: 7/1/2016

Purpose: Weed-whack

Location: Section 12d, Middle/lower end of section from Campbell Hollow Road to US 19E

People: Kevin Sedgwick, Gloria Sedgwick

Summary: The great weed-whack marathon continued on today. Grass, rose, and briars have grown tall; seems like more than last year. We dragged more downed logs across the ATV path in a futile attempt to keep ATVs from getting on the trail. I was passed my three ATVs and one motorcycle going downhill in Bishop Hollow. At least they knocked down the hay. There were not as many hikers

as the other day; a few flip floppers. Gloria helped shuttle, but had to leave early. It was a long day, but the trail is clear and hikers can find it.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 7/1/2016

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US321

People: Brian Paley

Summary: I cut two blowdowns between Watauga Dam and Watauga Shelter.

Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 7/2/2016

Purpose: Routine trail maintenance

Location: Section 10, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail

People: Dean Baird, Jennifer Baird

Summary: We inspected the trail and removed a significant amount of trash.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 7/3/2016

Purpose: Clear trailside vegetation

Location: Section 20a, South end of section from Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap

People: Craig Haire

Summary: Using a 4-cycle string trimmer, I cleared the overgrowth alongside the trail from Temple Hill Gap to Temple Hill Ridge. I met one south-bounder headed for Springer Mountain.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/4/2016

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds along the trails and in the tenting areas at the Shelter. We also picked up all the trash and removed it.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/4/2016

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds across the farm as needed. We also placed a water diversion in the accessible trail. The accessible trail needs to be sprayed to remove foliage growth from the trail. The fence along the lane has a section removed from the gate south allowing hikers to go down the bank. This opening causes the gate at the stile to be of little use. The stile gate had been left open. The cattle have been turned into the newly fenced-off area and have eaten most of the grass. We lopped off some of the low foliage in the trail at the beginning of the accessible trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/8/2016

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 18, South of Unaka Mountain

People: Daryel Anderson, John Beudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Lilly Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We continued the trail rehab work down Unaka Mountain toward Deep Gap. We added 29 new rock steps and a lot of cribbing. Most of the rock had to be moved as far as 100 feet. We only saw five hikers and they were very complimentary of the work done over the last several weeks. The memorable question of the day was, "Did y'all bring all that rock in?"

Reporting: Richard Lott

Date: 7/9/2016

Purpose: Paint blazes, cut weeds and blowdowns

Location: Section 3a, McQueens Gap to US 421

People: Richard Lott, Scotty Myers, Missy Wright, Susan Rook

Summary: We cut weeds a solid 1.5 miles mostly from McQueens Gap to the spring. We cut two blowdowns with a chainsaw and three with the silky saw, between the spring and US 421. We also painted blazes from McQueens Gap to US 421. The weeds still need to be cut 0.5 miles Trail-north from the spring and about halfway between the spring and 421. We ran out of fuel, time, and stamina to cut all the weeds.

Reporting: Ken Buchanan

Date: 7/10/2016

Purpose: Mow weeds

Location: Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter to TN91

People: Ken Buchanan, Wayne Buchanan

Summary: Once more I enlisted a willing worker from within the family for a walk in the woods. Sunday afternoon, we clipped weeds and greenbriars out to the shelter. We timed it about right, as the trail was not overgrown but it would have been in another week. It will require clipping again in 2-3 weeks. We met six north-bound hikers; each eager to tell us about the really bad trail conditions they had encountered. One had counted 251 blowdowns more than 6" in diameter. Another said a really big tree had fallen and taken out a large section of trail. At least Carl will not run out of things for us to do for a spell.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 7/10/2016

Purpose: Section Maintenance

Location: Section 15a, Cloudland to Trail-north of Roan High Knob Shelter

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I cut briars and clipped annual growth between Cloudland and a sunny spot about 0.3 miles Trail-north of the Roan High Knob Shelter side trail that gets overgrown in the summer. I also cut the one blowdown just north of the shelter trail.

Reporting: Eric Middlemas

Date: 7/11/2016

Purpose: Summer maintenance

Location: Section 17, FS 230 Switchback to Iron Mountain Gap

People: Mike Hupko, Eric Middlemas, Judy Middlemas, Rich Ritter, Tim Shipley, Janice Miller, Bruce Darby, Lana Scott, Wayne Jones, Jeannine Edwards, Dave Douthat, Howard Guinn

Summary: We performed routine summer trail maintenance from FS 230 to Iron Mountain Gap. We removed weeds (with string trimmers), small blowdowns, and debris from the trail. We checked the springs and Cherry Gap Shelter. There were about four blowdowns between Iron Mtn Gap and Cherry Gap that will be removed at a later date.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 7/12/2016

Purpose: Check for blowdowns

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: Due to the recent windstorm, we decided to check the trail for blowdowns. We encountered two hikers who reported that there were no fallen trees on this part of the trail. We cut a few overhanging branches and weeds. We also spotted some erosion on one part of the trail and made a rock crib. About halfway up the trail, it started to rain and we were forced to return to our car. As we returned to the trailhead, we picked up a few pieces of trash.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/13/2016

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to Watauga Dam

People: Carl Belcher, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, George Thorpe, Steve Wilson

Summary: We cut 44 blowdowns from the recent storm from Wilbur Dam Road to Watauga Dam. We also rehabbed where two tree root balls took out the trail. Paul did an excellent job replacing some of rotting wooden steps at the TVA road with rock steps. This section of trail is open.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 7/13/2016

Purpose: Check for location of reported blowdown

Location: Section 19a, Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap Shelter

People: Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: We located the reported blowdown (actually three of them) and trimmed it out so hikers won't have to go off the trail. We also cleared a few smaller ones. A chainsaw will be needed for the two larger blowdowns, located between 1.3 and 1.9 miles from Indian Grave Gap trail-south.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 7/14/2016

Purpose: Section Maintenance

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Hack Line

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I cut briars and clipped brush between Carvers Gap and the old Hack Line Road. The Roan Naturalist reported that hikers

were taking a wrong turn, heading Trail-north towards Carvers Gap, and at the junction with the Hack Line, hikers were cutting the sharp turn; so I piled some brush in the old route. I also dug out one waterbar. Water is draining through the parking area along the highway and is washing the gravel out of the Trail immediately south of Carvers Gap. Diversion is complicated there because of the parking, but I believe there is room for a waterbar. I'll look for a large log in the area to install next time, and paint blazes.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/14/2016

Purpose: Clear Blowdowns

Location: Section 9b, Pond Flats to Hampton trailhead

People: Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan, Robin Dean, Joe Morris

Summary: This crew led by octogenarians cleared six blowdowns and did some trimming. This section is clear.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/14/2016

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats

People: Scotty Bowman, Carl Fritz, Bill Murdoch

Summary: We cleared all the blowdowns and limbs. At least there was a lot less damage than on the other side of the lake. Some really big trees just missed the trail. We have a couple of large hemlocks that are awkward step-overs near the wilderness boundary. They can be removed later. This section is clear.

Reporting: Pat Loven

Date: 7/14/2016

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

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

People: Danny Harper, Paul Benfield, George Thorp, Ted Mowery, Pat Loven

Summary: We walked south on the trail from Dennis Cove to address recent blowdowns. Our main objective was a large reported blowdown about one mile from the road crossing. A tree with a large root ball had fallen and took a 15-foot section of trail with it. We repaired the damaged section with cribbing and backfill. We also cleared a number of smaller blowdowns in the area. We saw four hikers, one of whom was from New Zealand. According to these hikers, the trail is clear now to Canute's.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 7/14/2016

Purpose: Remove blowdowns and assess shelter damage

Location: Section 10, Laurel Gorge

People: Bob Peoples, Jim Chambers

Summary: We removed substantial blowdowns between Laurel Fork Shelter and Laurel Falls, and assessed tree damage to Laurel Fork Shelter.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 7/14/2016

Purpose: Cut weeds and clear blowdowns

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

People: John Beaudet, Jim Foster, Kim Peters

Summary: John and Jim hiked in about 2 miles north from Iron Mountain Gap with a chainsaw and cleared all the blowdowns they found. Meanwhile, Kim ran the string trimmer from Iron Mtn Gap to Weedy Gap and cut all the weeds. John and Jim finished first and moved on to clear more blowdowns on John's section. Kim got back to the car just as the rain started. What good timing!

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 7/14/2016

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 19a, Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap Shelter

People: John Beaudet, Jim Foster

Summary: After clearing the blowdowns north of Iron Mountain Gap, John and Jim headed to Indian Grave Gap to clear the reported blowdowns on John's section. Everything went smoothly and his section is now clear.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 7/16/2016

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

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

People: Lynn DiFiore, Brian Schloff

Summary: The weeds were 'whacked' from the barn to Stan Murray, with a few miles of string-trimmer carrying practice thrown in, as the plastic on the cutting head broke as soon as we reached Stan Murray. Although, we were able to cobble it together enough to

finish up the section. We also cut out one small blowdown and removed a small amount of trash from both shelters. The illegal ATV access is showing signs of use again, so I notified the Cherokee NF. Lots of day hikers were out despite the forecasted rain.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 7/16/2016

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 15b, Hughes Gap

People: Phyllis Cairnes, Terry Oldfield, Kim Peters

Summary: The plan for this "3rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools" trip was to cut the weeds from Cloudland to Hughes Gap. However, lots of people thought either cutting weeds was not much fun or the 50% chance of rain might make a miserable day, and didn't show up. But three hardy volunteers made it to Hughes Gap to start cutting the weeds. Unfortunately, about the time we got geared up and ready to go, the skies opened up and dumped rain on us. We took shelter in the car and waited. And waited. The rain did not lessen and we decided that cutting wet weeds would be much less fun than cutting dry weeds, so we would just abort the plan and go hiking instead. On the way back we stopped at Iron Mtn Gap and took a hike out-and-back to Cherry Gap shelter. It was cool and cloudy and we had a fine hike.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman

Date: 7/17/2016

Purpose: Brush trail in preparation for SAWS crews

Location: Section 7, Wilbur Dam Road to about 1.25 miles trail-north

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: I hiked into Big Laurel Branch Wilderness to assess storm damage and do some brushing in preparation of SAWS crews coming on Monday. I was able to remove six blowdowns and brushed out about 1.25 miles.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/18/2016

Purpose: Sharpen tools

Location: Home

People: Paul Benfield

Summary: I sharpened Jim Chambers' crosscut saw that is used on the Trail.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 7/20/2016

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Bradley Gap

People: Lynn DiFiore, Lyndsey Smith

Summary: We checked the section for blowdowns and found only one small limb that was easily removed with the handsaw. We lopped back numerous briars as the section is growing in quickly despite the recent cutting. We also removed a small amount of trash from the Bradley Gap campsites. At least one horse has recently been on the Trail between Little Hump and Bradley Gap - most impacts are in the relo section with "step throughs" on the edge of the tread.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 7/20/2016

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Elk River

People: Ted Malone, Steve Wilson

Summary: The goal of this outing was to cut the blowdowns that were reported after the recent wind storm. We found the two significant blowdowns and several others that required the chainsaw. We counted at least 18 blowdowns, and used two tanks of gas. This section has been cleared and is in good shape.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/20/2016

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 9a, US321 to Pond Flats

People: Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples

Summary: We cleared several more blowdowns and purchased some tools from Brown's Hardware.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/21/2016

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 18, South of Unaka Mountain

People: Daryel Anderson, John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Bill Murdoch, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, George Thorpe, Cody McConnell, Logan West

Summary: On a very hot and still day, we perspired; but at least the temperature did not get out of the 70's even though cities were in mid to upper 90's. We continued working downhill, but the going was slow because of all the rock steps and cribbing we had to add. Hopefully, fewer steps will be needed soon.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 7/22/2016

Purpose: Check properties

Location: Section 8, US 321 near Shook Branch

People: Joe DeLoach, Morgan Sommerville, Leanna Joyner

Summary: Prior to inspection of the planned new Trail route into Shook Branch Recreation Area, we looked at some potential properties for A.T. protection.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/22/2016

Purpose: Scout trail options

Location: Section 9a, US 321

People: Joe DeLoach, Vic Hasler, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Leanna Joyner, Morgan Sommerville

Summary: Primarily, we explored trail crossing options for US 321 at Atwood property. A meeting with USFS and TDOT will be required. Also, Vic Morgan and Leanna explored some low-priority property purchases in the area.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 7/22/2016

Purpose: Improve drainage

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: After the inspection trip at US 321, I drove to Carvers Gap and installed two drainage ditches where water is draining along the parking at the highway down into the Trailheading north. I will go back and make at least one of them a waterbar, when I have suitable logs.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 7/24/2016

Purpose: Routine maintenance and check for blowdowns from recent storm

Location: Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US 19E

People: Kevin Sedgwick, Gloria Sedgwick

Summary: We checked to see how many trees came down in the big storm two weeks ago. We broke up one campsite and cleaned around steps and waterbars. We were surprised to see things have already grown back, so lopped as needed. We cut two blowdowns and found two trees, one very large one, that were already cut. We are guessing they were cut by ATVs that use the dirt road; so this time they were a help to us. We rehabbed 6 feet of side hills where something had pushed the cribbing over. We also dragged more limbs to keep ATVs off the trail in the northern part, which seems to be working.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/25/2016

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the camp area and trails as needed. The hikers are searching for water down the branch from the old spring beside the road. They aren't finding suitable water down that stream bed. It appears the blue blazing of the correct trail needs to be more clearly marked.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/25/2016

Purpose: Mowed Accessible Trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds along the accessible trail on Osborne Farm. Only about 1/3 of the trail had been sprayed. Perhaps they were waiting for the seed to sprout from the hay mowing before spraying the rest of the trail. Everything looks good. The main gate to the lane has been run into again, bending it much more. The farmer who rents the farm stated that he arrived at the gate recently and the top hinge was loose on the gate which would have allowed someone to open the gate.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 7/25/2016

Purpose: Webinar for ATC Biennial Program

Location: Teleconference

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: ATC hosted a webinar to share recommendations from the ATC Biennial task force. The only new information for TEHCC was a delay in the implementation by a year; so the Deep South Region is now hosting in 2024. Each club was allowed to provide feedback. Many expressed disappointment with the name choices available for branding the event. A proposal was made to identify four to six top locations along the A.T. and then rotate between these sites. Later comments did not support this approach as it would limit the ability to section hike the entire Trail. However, it would be a good idea to inventory potential places which can accommodate the event when near the A.T. and its communities, as planning needs 3-4 years to lock in a venue. College campuses continue to be popular to provide lower cost housing along with local hotels, and thus could be a starting point for the site list. Roles and responsibilities between ATC, clubs, and the contract event-planning firm need to be clear for good execution. The standard schedule has a Friday evening check-in followed by three days of events and hiking. A question was raised whether this arrangement allows enough time for those who are coming to section hike the region.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 7/26/2016

Purpose: APPA Capital Planning

Location: Teleconference

People: TEHCC: Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler; ATC: Leanna Joyner, Morgan Summerville

Summary: A teleconference was held to review projects in the current TEHCC plan. For 2017, Konnarock Crew will need two (or three, if available) weeks to finish up the relocations planned for the Backbone Rock Trail. For 2018, the club plans to renovate Cherry Gap Shelter. For 2019, US 321 crossing is on the schedule, but needs more scope definition to complete the required reviews. For 2020 thru 2023, the roughly 4,000-foot relocation of A.T. around Weedy Gap is proposed with the Konnarock Crew. Some parts of this project have been flagged, but there may be a more optimal path. Thus a field visit with ATC/USFS is desired in late October or November when the leaves are down. For 2021, renovation of the No Business Knob Shelter is in the plan, but TEHCC needs to review whether there is sufficient demand for this small shelter. This topic should be debated at the Fall Partnership discussion. Other potential projects briefly reviewed were the Osborne Farm accessible trail section, removing PUDS north of Temple Hill Gap (which is the last item on the optimal path review), and degraded switchbacks at Doll Flats. None of these efforts specifically require APPA funding. The planning horizon was through 2023, which is good, as 2024 is the current year for the next Deep South Biennial.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 7/26/2016

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 8, US 321 to Watauga Shelter

People: Brian Paley

Summary: I cleared 14 blowdowns from the Forest Service gate to Watauga Shelter.