



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

October 2016

tehcc.org

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Laurel Fork Shelter – Still closed to use

Vic Hasler reporting

UPDATE: Laurel Fork Shelter continues to be temporarily closed because of the July 8th high wind storm. While the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS) removed the hazard tree in front of the shelter, there are two oak trees and a large locust tree still laying on roof. The major concern is a , 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.

Save The Date – Fall Dinner Meeting, November 4, 2016

Submitted by William Werner

The annual Fall Dinner is coming up on Friday, November 4th at the Eastman Lodge from 5:30 to 9:00 pm. Food will be BBQ from Phil's Dream Pit. After dinner, TEHCC's own Steve Ankabrandt will be giving a presentation on his recent backpacking trip on Isle Royale in Lake Superior. Due to its remoteness and the difficulty of access, Isle Royale National Park is the least-visited National Park in the contiguous United States. Registration details will be available in the October newsletter.

Event	Time	Details
Fall Dinner Meeting	5:30pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
Happy "Trails" Hour	5:30pm-6:30pm	Donations accepted for beer, or BYOB
Dinner: BBQ	6:30pm-7:15pm	Catered by Phil's Dream Pit (\$5 per person)
Club Business	7:15pm-8:00pm	- Update of club activities - Awards
Special Program: Backpacking on Isle Royale	8:00pm-9:00pm	Steve Ankabrandt

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

W Woodall

John Rolstead

Matthew Holkenborg

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
October 15	Hiking with Tools	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
October 15	A.T.: 19E to Walnut Mountain Rd	Tim Schaefer	423-408-4469
October 18	Steering Committee monthly discussion	William Werner	423-408-4469
October 22	Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
November 5	A.T.: Walnut Mountain Rd to Dennis Cove Rd	Tim Schaefer	423-408-4469
November 15	Steering Committee monthly discussion	William Werner	423-408-4469
November 19	Hiking with Tools	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
November 23-26	Lake Jocassee Thanksgiving Weekend	TBD	

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

Contact: [Wesley R. Bradley](#), 423-647-1321

Come join the [J.A.W.](#) , [Mahoney's Outfitters](#), [APEs](#), and other paddlers from our region at Freedom Hall Pool for tips about basic kayaking skills. Have you already mastered the basics and have a bomb proof roll? There is still a lot of fun to be had at our pool session by practicing your flat-water freestyle moves and fellowshiping with other paddlers. Admission to the pool is \$2; rolling advice is free! Contact the pool office (423- 461-4872) for session confirmation or questions regarding the facility.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Note: The J.A.W. provides the current fleet of boats for demo at the pool session, but neither the pool nor the J.A.W. provides paddling equipment (paddle, spray skirt, etc.). If you are just starting out in the sport and do not have your own equipment, please

post a message on the [APEs yahoo group site](#) or contact [Wesley R. Bradley](#). We will try our best to get you outfitted for the night! Also feel free to contact Wesley for any other questions or comments you may have.

Most Thursdays: Weekly A.T. Trail Maintenance

Contact: Carl Fritz, 423-477-4669, atvolunteer@tehcc.org

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 133.6-mile section each week, usually on Thursdays.

Thursday Evenings: Kayak Session, Kingsport Aquatic Center, 7 – 9 pm

Contact: Ryan Shealy, 423-963-6066

Interested in kayaking but don't know where to start? Basic kayak training and practice is 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](#).

3rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!

Contact: [Kim Peters](#), 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 required! Last year we typically had four to five people on each trip – with eight new volunteers making a contribution. Contact Kim Peters (atmaint@tehcc.org) for hike details, including meeting time and place.

Scheduled Events

A.T.: 19E to Walnut Mountain Rd, Saturday, October 15, 2016

Leader: Tim Schaefer, 423-302-0846

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](#) at 423-302-0846

Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower, Saturday, October 22, 2016

Leader: Vic Hasler (423-239-0388)

Rating: Moderate 9.6 mile round trip hike with approximately 1400 ft elevation gain at steady 6% grade.

While one website (<https://smokymountains.com/fall-foliage-map/>) is predicting this date may be past peak for fall colors, the hike on this weekend last year reported: The fall colors were beautiful the entire route. Our goal is the former fire tower up on the Buffalo Mountain to have a complete circle view of the nearby Clinch, Green, Roan, and Buffalo mountain ranges. We'll leave Colonial Heights at 8am to drive to the I-81 / Exit 32 trailhead, then after restroom break, hit the trail by 9am. A casual pace of couple miles per hour should have us enjoying lunch at the observation platform at 11:30am. I plan to replace a damaged geocache up on the summit for a long-time friend, then we'll head down at a bit faster pace – thanks to gravity. Depending on group preference, we could stop for refreshment on the drive home; otherwise, back by mid-afternoon. Let me know of your interest, so that we can plan for your participation. For more information, check the TEHCC Trail wiki at [http://tehcc.org/wiki/Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower](http://tehcc.org/wiki/Pinnacle_Mountain_Fire_Tower)

A.T.: Walnut Mountain Rd to Dennis Cove Rd, Saturday, November 5, 2016

Leader: Tim Schaefer, 423-302-0846

For November we will hike our way to Dennis Cove Rd with a possible diversion to see Coon Den Falls if we have the time. We are well past the halfway point of this "hike the TEHCC A.T." 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.

Lake Jocassee Thanksgiving Weekend, November 23 - 26

Leader: TBD

Details to be determined but we'll be camping and paddling the waterfalls of Lake Jocassee for Thanksgiving!

For the Record

No reports this month. ☹



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: August 26-28, 2016

Purpose: ATC Volunteer Leadership Conference

Location: Shepherdstown, WV

People: Kayla Carter, Dan Firth, Vic Hasler

Summary: APPA/ATC again provided fundamental training to the trail-maintaining clubs at the National Conservation Training Center (Shepherdstown, WV). The conference strengthens the skills of volunteer leaders through presentations, activities, and networking. Club volunteers also learn how the various partners function and interact. Overall, TEHCC handles well its responsibilities of maintaining the Trail and facilities, monitoring the adjacent lands, and providing Trail information for ATC publications. During this conference, we gathered some best practices and insights for our club to consider.

A significant topic was ensuring relevance of the A.T. to future generations to ensure their continued support. Commitment happens in phases: 1) Exposure, 2) Experiences that build connection, 3) Support to ensuring its future, and 4) Active engagement. TEHCC could benefit from having more interaction with new members to find out their interests and how to link them to upcoming activities. Our involvement with college students could evolve away from large group events, toward the student outdoor clubs handling annual maintenance tasks and/or small projects. Communication outside normal club recreation channels (maybe at outdoor stores, trailhead kiosks, local parks, newspapers) could inform the public about maintenance opportunities and encourage interested folks to join in.

Another key topic for discussion among the trail-maintaining clubs was managing the trail experience in the face of increasing use, including human-animal interactions; and how to address "hot spots" at extremely popular locations where overuse threatens the resource, such as the Roan Highlands.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 8/28/2016

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

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

People: Craig Haire

Summary: Two trees were across the trail less than 1/4 mile south from the road. It took three cuts, which was quick work. The drive and the cutting were both electric (LEAF, Greenworks). No fossil fuels involved; just inconvenienced a few electrons.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 8/30/2016

Purpose: Maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds at the camping area and along the trails at the Shelter. We also removed trash. The gravel road from the pavement to the locked gate was graded.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 8/30/2016

Purpose: Maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds on the A.T. and Accessible trail. Cattle have been on the Accessible Trail recently. All cattle were removed and the fence had been repaired along the lane. Now the cattle are back in the field at the lane.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 9/1/2016

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap, North side of Grassy Ridge

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I cut weeds along most of the remainder of the section, so that the rest should require just one more short day.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/1/2016

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 18, FS230 switchback to Indian Grave Gap, South Unaka Mountain

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: Part of the crew continued working trail south towards Deep Gap by rehabbing trail with rock and some locust. Part of the crew went almost to the Unaka Mountain peak to redo a series of rock steps with larger rocks. With the thunder approaching about 2 pm, we retreated rapidly to vehicles. It was suggested that getting hit with lightning on the tallest mountain in the area would not demonstrate much wisdom.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 9/3/2016

Purpose: Rare Plant Monitoring

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

People: Dan Firth, Annette Stevens

Summary: We took the opportunity of a beautiful day to try and locate a rare plant that unfortunately was not found.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 9/4/2016

Purpose: Check shelter and trail

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

Summary: We hiked out to check the shelter and trail. We dismantled a few fire pits along the way and picked up associated trash. There is a blowdown which is mostly the top of a tree blocking the trail about 1.5 miles in with a well-worn trail around it. We will save this for a later time. It can all be cut with a hand saw, but cutting all those small limbs would take a longer time than allotted for today. We picked up limited trash at the shelter and cleaned out the fire pit which was full of shotgun shell casings. Thankfully, someone had moved the picnic table back up to the shelter (it was out in the camping area). We dismantled several fire pits in the camping area and picked up trash. The water is flowing at the spring but there is a blowdown just south of the shelter which we also left for another day. It is easily negotiated and can also be taken out with a hand saw. The offerings continue to grow at the Grindstaff Monument with beads, crosses, flags and now for some reason a large pile of kindling. Thankfully, no fire pit though. It was a wonderful fall-like day to be out in the woods and we met many hikers and backpackers out enjoying the trail.

Reporting: Phyllis Cairnes

Date: 9/5/2016

Purpose: Maintain shelter

Location: Section 2b, Abingdon Gap shelter

People: Kim Peters, Rolla Wade, Phyllis Cairnes

Summary: We were pleased to find this recently painted shelter still looking nice. The graffiti board was written on but the walls were not; so far this is working. There were a couple of hikers at the shelter today and a fire going in the pit. We noticed a huge active hornets' nest hanging from a limb fairly close to the shelter. Smoke from the fire pit was probably keeping the hornets at bay. We picked up trash, broke up two nearby firepits, and checked the logbook (new one not needed). Kim's dog, Tigger, seemed to enjoy Labor Day on the trail as did the rest of us.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 9/7/2016

Purpose: Sharpen saw

People: Paul Benfield

Summary: I sharpened Carl's trail maintenance saw.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 9/7/2016

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We picked up trash at the trail head and cleared around all the water bars. At the first water bar there was a very long tree that had blown down on the trail. It took two separate cuts to remove it from the trail. We also cut some stinging nettle and thorny weeds. All in all, the trail looks pretty good and the camp ground was clean as well.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 9/8/2016

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap, North side of Grassy Ridge

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I finished cutting the weeds on the section; the last parts were slow work because quite a bit of limb and shrub lopping

was also necessary. I placed a new shelter register and carried out some trash.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/8/2016

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 18, FS230 switchback to Indian Grave Gap, South of Unaka Mountain

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We continued the rehab effort south of Unaka Mtn. It sure seems that this trail should outlast most of us, because we are having to use so much rock. We only encountered one north boulder today. She was primarily looking for water and we were able to provide her with some. There probably are four or five more work days in this general area. Some of us also checked out the new foot bridge in the Rock Creek Recreation Area.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 9/10/2016

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Stan Murray Shelter to Little Hump

People: Lynn DiFiore, Brian Schloff

Summary: We checked the trail for blowdowns (only found one small one) and used loppers and a swingblade to knock back the surprisingly few briars. We removed a moderate amount of trash from the barn. We also dispersed a second fire ring that has shown up at the rocks on Little Hump and the ever recurring fire ring on top of Little Hump. Yet another camping impact site is starting on the bald, in addition to the expansion noted last work trip. ATVs are still accessing the trail between Overmountain and Stan Murray; lots of use on the FS roads on the TN side. There were a lot of day hikers, overnight backpackers, and dogs out for the nice weekend.

Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 9/11/2016

Purpose: Inspect trail section

Location: Section 10, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail

People: Dean Baird

Summary: We removed trash and replaced some cribbing rocks at the section where the trail has rock and log cribbing immediately beside the creek. Someone had apparently removed some of the larger rocks and thrown them over the cribbing near or into the creek.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 9/13/2016

Purpose: Mow camping area

Location: Section 14b, Over Mountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the camping area and trimmed weeds along the trails. We also limed the privy and picked up trash.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 9/13/2016

Purpose: Mow Trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

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

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/15/2016

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 18, South of Unaka Mountain

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We finished the rehab to within a half mile of the summit. It was 72° here while lowlands were 92°. We finished the rock step staircase. We added a number of water diversions above and below the steps. Also, we did a lot of trail smoothing and cribbing nearer FS230 road access.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 9/16/2016

Purpose: Replace shelter log book and check on blowdowns/problems

Location: Section 19b, River Outfitter to Curley Maple Gap Shelter

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: I thought by mid-September the temperature might be at its 79F historical norm, but the day reached 91F and it was humid by the afternoon. I started at the outfitter blue-blaze heading north. I removed several small blowdowns with a hand saw, but left three larger ones which are easily stepped over or passed under. All three are before the second bridge (less than 0.7 mile) on an easy walk if a club sawyer would like to clear them out.

The other main purpose was to replace the CMG Shelter logbook, which was full. For reference, two logbooks covered a year and were filled at an Aug-Aug rate (pages-per-month) of 4-9-12-7-3-4-2-14-31-34-14-3-4. (Replace next late March 2017.) The peak for this section is mid-April, which appears to be about one month in for NOBO thru-hikers. From what I can tell, at least 140 folks spent the night in the CMG shelter during the past year with eight being the largest group recorded. Poor weather or a NERO (near-zero mileage day) are common reasons for staying. This trail section has three campsites that are used routinely along the Jones Branch, which is a better water supply than at the shelter, which was just a trickle.

Two trail deficiencies were noted for the regular maintainers to possibly rehab. The first is just north of the second bridge where campers sliding down to the stream are eroding the trail path. Ideas are welcome, but formal rock or locust steps might be needed to harden the trail edge and provide a defined path. The other problem is severely sloughing sidehill on the upper part of the steep ascent. Four 20-30' sections were photographed for reference.

A swing blade will be needed for an upcoming trip to knock back the dog hobble in several places along the trail in the bottomland, and the fire rings can be broken up for the year. Otherwise, this section is in good condition.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 9/17/2016

Purpose: "3rd Saturday Hiking with Tools"

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

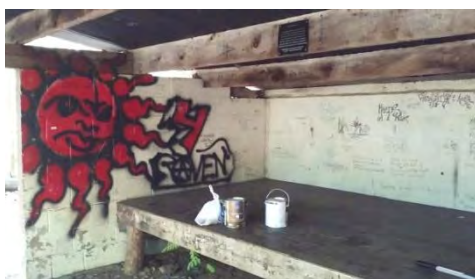
People: Ed Oliver, Phyllis Cairnes, Kayla Carter, Chloe Denton, Rolla Wade, Ken Murray, Chuck Klein, Tim Stewart, Kim Peters

Summary: What a great "3rd Saturday Hiking with Tools" trip this was. We had a great turnout and the weather could not have been better. After the tortuous trek to Moreland Gap Shelter, we split into two groups with Tim, Chloe and Chuck heading to the Canute place with loppers and swing blades to lop and weed that 2.4 mile section of trail, while the rest of us cleaned up and painted the shelter inside and out. This graffiti filled shelter was cleaned and painted and the trash around the shelter was picked up. We met two section hikers who mentioned problems at the 19E crossing stating that the blazes had been painted over with red paint and signs removed to obscure the trail. After we got everyone back to their cars at Roan Mtn, Ed and Kim headed to the trail crossing at 19E to check out the hikers' complaints. We could not find anything wrong and concluded that those hikers had lost the trail at 19E, perhaps because the weeds were so high at the road crossing, and had walked up Buck Mtn Road, seeing red boundary markings on trees and interpreting them as painted-over blazes.

All in all another great "3rd Saturday" outing. A great big thanks to all participants, especially to the to first timers, Chloe and Chuck.



First-timer Chloe with Hiker Volunteer Patch



Moreland Gap Shelter - Before



Ed and Ken hard at work



Moreland Gap Shelter - After

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 9/20/2016

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters

Summary: On the last trip to this section, two blowdowns were found which were left for a later time. This trip was to clear those blowdowns. The first was just south of the shelter and consisted of a large dead tree which had pinned a rhododendron under it when it fell. We cut the limbs of the rhododendron and shifted the dead trunk enough to make the trail passable. The second blowdown was mostly the top of an oak tree blocking the trail. Nine cuts of the 3-8" limbs were required to clear this obstruction, but 20 minutes later the trail was clear. We also cleaned up around the shelter, dismantling yet another fire pit in the camping area.

The picnic table has again been moved to the middle of the camping area. We met only one other hiker on this beautiful day.

Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 9/22/2016

Purpose: Inspect trail; remove trash

Location: Section 10, Hampton Blue-Blaze trail

People: Jennifer Baird, Emily Pons

Summary: We removed trash from the campsites and parking area. There's been no further trail damage around the rock cribbing near the creek.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/22/2016

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 15b, Cloudland to Ash Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart

Summary: The day was in the mid 80s in the lowland; the highest it was here in the Roans was 60°. We saw about ten section hikers. Some hikers are taking the old trail to cut some of the switchbacks and we brushed those in again. We placed rocks to define the trail where some steps were being avoided. We added a few steps especially at bottom of a staircase where many feet had compressed the soil and now the first step was eighteen inches. Overall, this section of trail is in very good shape.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 9/24/2016

Purpose: Prep shelter for painting

Location: Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter

People: Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

Summary: The purpose of this trip was to scrape and clean the shelter prior to painting this week. We hiked out with wire brushes and scrapers and spent several hours cleaning off old paint and spiderwebs. This will allow the paint crew to start painting as soon as they arrive at the shelter and hopefully shorten an otherwise long day. There is water at the shelter, but the spring 3 miles north of Wilbur Dam Road is almost dry.

We met a southbounder planning to spend the night and he complained about all the blowdowns between Iron Mtn Shelter and Vandeventer. There were also many entries in the log book with similar complaints. One entry stated that it was the worst section of trail that he had seen in 1700 miles. So while the work done by SAWS from the road to the shelter was phenomenal, there are still more problematic blowdowns out there from the storm in July. We met many hikers and backpackers out enjoying the fine weather.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 9/25/2016

Purpose: Maintain Section

Location: Section 15a, Cloudland to Roan High Knob Shelter

People: Joe DeLoach, Allyson Ross

Summary: We picked up trash (not bad) and placed a new register at the Roan High Knob Shelter; and whacked a few blackberries along the way.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 9/26/2016

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

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

People: Ken Murray

Summary: I finished summer vegetation control near the shelter. I ate lunch at the shelter, which was very clean, much better than last time. I met three SOBOs who were very glad the spring at the shelter was running well.