



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

December 2016

tehcc.org

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2017 TEHCC Steering Committee

The proposed 2017 Steering Committee has 2 new members as well as five returning.

Nominated for their first term: Koustubh Kulkarni and Rahul Subramanian

Continuing for their second year: Mark Cox, Lane Daley, Kay Parker, Tim Schaefer

Rotating off the committee: Yancey Appling, Andrea Gass, and our past-chair, Steve Ankabrandt. We thank them for their service.



Kay Parker



Koustubh Kulkarni



Rahul Subramanian

The nominating committee proposed Kay Parker as TEHCC Steering Committee Chair. William Werner will serve an additional year as the past-chair. Vic Hasler participates as a non-voting representative of the A.T. Committee. Instead of an election, the club this time the club had a confirmation step where 50% favorable feedback approves the seating of the nominees for a two-year term. A bit about the nominated Steering Committee Members.

Koustubh Kulkarni: I am a Materials engineer by training and when I need a break from working with robots or trying to figure out supposedly “complex” chemistry problems the outdoors is where I head to. Me and my wife are avid hikers and one of the bucket list items for us is to visit all the National Parks of America. The progress has been slow but steady but I am sure we will get there some day. Travelling, hiking, camping and backpacking are my ways for relaxation. I am an amateur photographer too and when I am not outdoors I find solace in working with my pictures to bring the best out of whatever small part of the nature my lens is able to capture. My favorite subjects for photography are landscapes, waterfalls and sometimes cityscapes if they are interesting. Currently I am serving as the Newsletter editor for TEHCC.

Rahul Subramanian :Rahul is a recent graduate (May 2016) from NC State in Raleigh, NC. He is a Mechanical Engineer working in the Materials Handling department at Eastman Chemical Company. His interests in kayaking, rafting, and hiking escalated by being near the rivers and mountains in East Tennessee. He likes to run obstacle races like the Spartan Race, Noli Triple Threat and Tough Mudder. Feel free to visit his website <http://rahulsubramanian.com/> if you want to talk about any of the activities listed above.

Roan Mountain to Become AT Trail Community

Steve Perri reporting

The town of Roan Mountain recently proposed and requested an application for approval of its consideration to become an AT Community. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) has institutionalized the AT Community program as a means to link communities with users and the ATC to provide broader linkages to help educate communities and to strengthen the relationships and opportunities between the communities and ATC.

The town of Roan Mountain put forth a compelling proposal for consideration based on the combined community support from the Roan Mountain Citizens Club (which organizes the Rhododendron Festival), Roan Mountain State Park, the Elizabethton/Carter



County Chamber of Commerce, county businesses, the Roan Mountain Board of Commissioners, and the Watauga Ranger District. Each AT Trail Community must prepare an application with supporting documentation and letters from regional and local partners. TEHCC has been in discussions with Roan Mountain citizens over the last year to discuss the potential partnership and desire for Roan Mountain to work with TEHCC to out forth an application. In October, commissioners Robert Acuff, Mike Hill, and Danny Ward attended the Fall Southern Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) to make the formal proposal to the committee and to enthusiastically put forth their request. The commissioners traveled from Roan Mountain to attend the meeting and to answer any outstanding questions or concerns. The RPC committee endorsed the proposal making Roan Mountain the 2nd AT Trail Community in Tennessee supported by TEHCC. Stay tuned for more information on the formal celebration of the addition of Roan Mountain as a new AT Trail Community. Posing in

the photo are: Morgan Sommerville (ATC SORO Regional Director), Commissioners Robert Acuff, Mike Hill, Danny Ward, Steve Perri (TEHCC RPC Rep), Kayla Carter (Elizabethton/Carter County Tourism Director), Don Hicks (SORO RPC Chair).

Bruce Darby is a 2000 Miler

Carl Fritz reporting

Bruce Darby started pleasure hiking of A.T. locally in late October 2000 by traversing Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River. To pick up more sections he hiked with his brother-in-law, Jim Foster, and the Johnson City hikers. After having four back vertebrae fused and his right knee replaced, he continued day hikes with the help of his wife, Hazel. And he continued hikes in New England, his home territory, when he and Hazel were visiting. Then he began to think that completing the trail was a possibility. He had his left knee replaced in 2014, but after therapy he continued hiking. With the help of Jim Foster and others he finished the A.T. in Rangley, Maine after crossing Saddleback Mountain on August 17th, 2016 just before his 75th birthday. He says, “The Lord has blessed me with good health in order to complete the trail.” Bruce is an active trail maintainer helping Jim as well as the Old Timers Hiking Club. He also says, “It is my opinion that the Eastman section of the trail is the best maintained section on the entire trail.” Congratulations for becoming a 2000 miler through determination and perseverance, Bruce.

L.L. Bean Supplies Maintenance Tools

Carl Fritz reporting

L.L. Bean has financially supported the Grants to A.T. Clubs program for many years. This year they provided \$500 so we could purchase five Fiskars powergear loppers and four Rogue pulaskis. The loppers are what we use for most of our trail work from cutting back rhododendron to cutting roots while building or rehabbing the trail. Most of the funds went for then ewly designed pulaskis. These have a longer handle (less stooping), the digging spade is 5.5 inches wide



Fiskars Powergear Lopper



"The Beast" Pulaski

And this new pulaski is basically the same weight as the standard pulaski. We have found these new tools are especially great for side hill digging and water bar cleaning. L. L. Bean's ongoing support for our projects as well as those of the other A. T. clubs demonstrates the value of a benevolent corporation to a volunteer activity. We can concentrate on work rather than fund raising.

TEHCC Library Collection

Submitted by Vic Hasler

Update of Tim Schaefer's article back in May. The collection of more recent titles, available to loan to current employees, includes:

- Appalachian Trail Guide - Tennessee-North Carolina 14th (2013) and 15th (2016) Editions
- Appalachian Trail Thru-Hikers' Companion 2015
- Cherokee and Pisgah National Forests Topographic Maps
 - #782 "French Broad and Nolichucky Rivers" covers the AT from GSMNP to Erwin
 - #783 covers AT from Erwin to Damascus plus nearby trails
- Forests, Alligators, Battlefields: My Journey through the National Parks of the South
- Great Smoky Mountain National Park Issued Maps
- Hiking Map & Guide Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- New River Blueway Map #773
- Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests
- Smoky Mountains/Southern Appalachia Scenic Tours

View the list here: [Library Collection](#). To check out anything (or add to the listing), contact Tim (tim@tehcc.org).

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

No new members this month

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
December 3	A.T.: Dennis Cove Rd to Wilbur Dam Rd	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846
December 20	Steering Committee monthly discussion	William Werner	423-408-4469

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-26 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 now available in Kingsport on Thursdays at the Kingsport Aquatic Center! During the winter months (October-April), the indoor pool is sectioned off specifically for kayakers to practice basic paddling techniques. Admission is \$3 for 2 full hours of fun; Aquatic Center members may attend free! If you have equipment, you may drop it off outside the door closest to the pool, then enter the main door to pay at the front desk. The pool does not provide paddling equipment, but if you are just starting out and do not have your own gear, please contact Ryan Shealy (423-963-6066). For additional event details, click [here](#).

Scheduled Events

A.T.: Dennis Cove Rd to Wilbur Dam Rd, Saturday, December 3, 2016

Leader: Tim Schaefer, 423-302-0846

For those of you that have been watching my series of "Hike the TEHCC A.T." series but have been scared off at the thought of 10 to 17 mile hikes, you may be interested in a change of plans. We had a great suggestion to split up the next section into a few smaller hikes. This works well with the shortened daylight and general holiday business. Our next hike is December 3rd and it's the Laurel Fork Gorge between US321 and Dennis Cove Rd. A beautiful hike along the river with a view of Laurel Fork Falls. That hike alone straight through with shuttling is 3.63 miles. Some have talked about adding a loop from Dennis Cove Rd to see Coon Den Falls adding a few extra miles. I believe there will be enough attendance that you should be able to pick direction of hiking or taking the optional Falls hike. The point of the group hike here is that we'll coordinate with each other to shuttle across trail heads to allow us to through-hike instead of an in-and-out. For hike details Contact Tim Schaefer at tim@tehcc.org or 423-302-0846 or see the planned details at [http://tehcc.org/wiki/Hike_Plans:2016 TEHCC AT#December Hike](http://tehcc.org/wiki/Hike_Plans:2016_TEHCC_AT#December_Hike) or. The two hikes after that will be 6.5mi along Pond Mountain and 4.0 miles across Watauga Dam.

For the Record

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

Tim Schafer reporting

A beautiful fall day for a hike. This time, given the slightly longer trail head shuttling time and hiking group size, we decided to key-swap this hike. This hike offered several lookouts, they were typically to the south viewing the Roan Highlands offering us a chance to ponder how far we have come. The two teams met at the half-way point, swapped keys, had lunch, and enjoyed some stories before continuing on. We decided to skip the Coon Den Falls diversion given our already long hike and dry conditions. Our next hike at only 3.63 miles from the Laurel Falls Trail Head on US321 to Dennis Cove Rd will be a much better candidate for added mileage. Joining us on this great day were Tim McClain, Charlie Outlaw, Tony Messina, Jonathan Schumaker, Teni Butler, Blake, and Durina.



Old Homestead Trail, Saturday, November 12, 2016

Vic Hasler reporting

This trail is currently impassable. I did not realize Dry Branch hollow was where the USFS had contracted to salvage acres of blowdowns from the July windstorm. There is a logging road carved just above the old stone foundations and walls, which I took to reach the climb for Curtis Mountain. The ridgeline is also blocked by many fallen crowns, thus had to walk on the steep and slippery hillside of loose rocks and sticks covered by a fresh bed of oak leaves. I was able to regain the trail and complete the loop back to the parking lot. USFS will need to send a chainsaw crew and blaze painters to reopen this path.

The morning was sunny and cool. I enjoyed the late fall color of golds and browns. Watauga Lake seen roughly 500-600' below was a smooth mirror reflecting the low sunshine. This hike is best when the leaves are down to have these views.

I've updated TEHCC's Trail Wiki with more information, but consider this trail closed until further notice.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 10/13/2016

Purpose: Lop uphill brush

Location: Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats, South from USFS wilderness kiosk

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: The answer to the question "How much could a lopper lop if a lopper was available to lop?" is roughly 400-yards of uphill brush on the Trail south from the wilderness boundary kiosk. I had asked Kim Peters, where does the A.T. need attention if I have time for the task. During Fall Break, I took a long morning to first meet the owners of the new Boots Off Hostel, then proceeded to lop and clip away at the uphill growth so that hikers can walk the trail centerline again. I also broke up one fire ring inside the wilderness area. I had a black snake decide my day pack was a warm place to rest until I encouraged it to move. We'll need to return to this section to continue this brushing as far as it is needed on Pond Mountain.

Reporting: Katie Currier

Date: 10/18 to 10/20/2016

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 6, From Vandeventer Shelter to 2.5 miles north

People: Katie Currier, Mason Boring, David Cohen

Summary: Katie, David and Mason hiked in to continue removing blowdowns from the storm that occurred in July. The work began just after the spring between Wilbur Dam Rd and Vandeventer Shelter and continued to about 2.5 miles North of Vandeventer

Shelter. The crew worked until Friday October 20th, Camping at Vandeventer shelter for the 2 nights. We cleared 20 trees and 5 crowns off of the trail.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 10/28/2016

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We hiked two miles up the trail clearing all the water bars and picking up trash at the campground. There were a few weeds and overhanging branches that were trimmed back as well. When we got about a mile and a half up the trail, we encountered a medium size hickory tree lying in the pathway. It took over 30 minutes to saw this stubborn tree in half, and with the rest of the tree, we were able to slide it down the embankment. Some northbound hikers reported everything was clear going up the last mile to Doll Flats, so we headed back to the trailhead to pick up some beer cans near a makeshift fire pit.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 11/2/2016

Purpose: Rare Plant Monitoring

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

People: Dan Firth, Matt Drury (ATC)

Summary: We spent a beautiful day monitoring the health of one of my favorite tree species, the Carolina Hemlock, for the ATC in Laurel Fork. Unfortunately, hemlocks are under assault from woolly adelgid, spider mites, and drought. Those in Laurel Fork are no different. Hemlocks are a critical species for forest and stream health. Without hemlocks, rhododendron thickets often take over, shading out other plants and tying up nitrogen, ultimately resulting in less diverse ecosystems.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 11/3/2016

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 18, South of Unaka Mountain

People: Daryel Anderson, John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Greg Kramer, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We continued adding rock steps, installing water diversions, and shuffling rocks out of path, plus adding some rock cribbing on the south side of Unaka Mtn. We have now completed the rehab down to Deep Gap. There still is a future relocation to do near Deep Gap.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman

Date: 11/5/2016

Purpose: Replace sign

Location: Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd Vandeventer Shelter

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: It was a beautiful day for a hike. I hiked in to replace the sign that we had removed to have it refinished. Along the way, I cleaned out two waterbars, removed berm in a couple of spots along the switchbacks, removed two fire rings, and removed one downed crown from the trail. The shelter still looks good after the paint job. There was no new graffiti and folks have been using the graffiti board. I encountered 15 hikers, mostly SOBOs and a few section hikers. I met one couple from the PATC in Shenandoah. It was a productive day.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 11/7/2016

Purpose: Scout trail access and repair fence

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

People: Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Jim Morton, Bob Peoples

Summary: We investigated possible access to Stan Murray Shelter from the Tennessee side. Also, we finished fastening some locust rails to posts at Carvers Gap.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 11/9/2016

Purpose: Sharpen saw

People: Paul Benfield

Summary: I sharpened Carl's trail saw.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 11/10/2016

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 18, Deep Gap to FS 230 road crossing

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Greg Kramer, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We did some general rehab from Deep Gap south to the trail crossing of FS230 road. We added some water bars, some other water diversions, and some rock steps. We also removed the unused dimensional lumber stile, dug some sidehill, and cleaned waterbars. The area from Unaka Mountain to Indian Grave Gap is in pretty good shape, except for a couple of planned relocations near Deep Gap.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 11/12/2016

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter

People: Lynn DiFiore, Brian Schloff

Summary: We cleaned all waterbars, cut out two significant blowdowns, and removed a large amount of trash from the campsites at Bradley Gap. We also dispersed four fire rings and blocked access to several campsites trail north of the Barn that keep reappearing.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 11/12/2016

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 14b, Access road to Overmountain Shelter

People: Connie Squires, Jim Chambers

Summary: In preparation to dig the new privy at Overmountain Shelter, we removed all blowdowns and felled one hazard tree on the access road.

Reporting: Terry A Oldfield

Date: 11/13/2016

Purpose: Double Springs Shelter cleanup

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

People: Kim Peters, Terry Oldfield

Summary: As we hiked to Double Springs, we noted that the trail is in good shape. We enjoyed experiencing the new step-up, notched step-over that Ken Buchanan and Pat Loven created from a huge blowdown. We picked up trash at the shelter (mostly ratty clothes and paperbacks), cleaned leaves from the gutter, and broke up a fire ring down by the spring. A pencil-thin stream was running from the pipe at the spring, and, unfortunately, it looks like the shelter roof is still leaking in places. On the way back, we took the relo (not yet open) for a change of scenery and so I could see the fine trail built by ASU students, especially the section that Kim "supervised."

Reporting: Pat Loven

Date: 11/13/2016

Purpose: Remove blowdown

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

People: Karen Loven, Pat Loven

Summary: We hiked trail south from Dennis Cove and removed a reported blowdown. We also cleared a few other minor obstacles during the trip. The highlight of the day was some wonderful trail magic at the parking area provided by Dave from the Atlanta area. Good food and a good day to be in the mountains.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 11/17/2016

Purpose: Move privy, repair shelter, etc.

Location: Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter

People: Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ron Boynton, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Nicole Hardin, Becky Kinder, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Gayle Riddervold, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart

Summary: A beautiful mid-November day provided us an opportunity to enjoy the Roans. We welcomed two first-time volunteers, Nicole Hardin and Ron Boynton. The water source at the Barn was cleaned out and is still running well. Of the two water sources at the north base of Little Hump, the one farther north was dry, but the closer one was still good. Ten fire rings were removed between Overmountain Shelter and Bradley Gap. The leaves were removed from the access road culvert. Some of the shelter boards were fastened tighter with screws and the gutter was checked. Also some large limbs were removed from the Barn roof. Several of the crew checked out Stan Murray Shelter and made detailed measurements for future rehabbing. Our primary task was to move the privy to a new board-lined pit, 5' deep x 4' x 4'. Because of much rock, the move was not completed until dark.

Photos by Ken Buchanan



Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 11/19/2016

Purpose: Cut annual growth

Location: Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats

People: Terry Oldfield, Lori Mirrer, Bob Byrd, Kim Peters

Summary: Well, unfortunately the fine fall weather did not hold for this last "3rd Saturday Hiking with Tools" trip. But despite the cool, wet weather, three hardy volunteers showed up at Shook Branch to hike with me up Pond Mountain and trim back the rhodies. The misty rain stopped shortly after we got underway and by the time we got back to the cars the sun was shining. The temperature however, did not increase much.

Armed with new, lighter loppers and saws, we worked our way up the mountain cutting back the woody vegetation encroaching the trail. Shortly after lunch, the trail took us to the windy side of the mountain which was much colder. We split into two groups with two heading to the top to work their way down and two staying down lower, out of the wind. We did find two large blowdowns which will require a larger saw to remove. The first is a 10-12" dead tree across the trail about 1.5 miles up the mountain and the second is a multi-tree mess about 0.4 mile from the top. Other than that, this section is in good shape.

We met only two other hikers, one slack-packing north bound and a southbounder who looked pretty cold. As we got to Shook Branch Road at the end of the day, we met Jim, the owner of the new Boots Off Hostel. He said that he had heard we were out on the trail and stopped to chat with us. He invited us back to the hostel for coffee, but as it was getting late and Lori still had a three hour drive to return to her home in Charlotte, we declined.

All-in-all, another successful 3rd Saturday trip. That's all for this year; the next 3rd Saturday trip will not be until March 2017. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who came out to help keep our trail in good shape.

Reporting: Ken Buchanan

Date: 11/25/2016

Purpose: Check trail and clear waterbars

Location: Sections 4a and 4b, TN 91 to US 421 (Low Gap)

People: Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan

Summary: We took three of our children (one spouse) and six grandchildren out with us today. Some we dropped off at Low Gap to meet the workers at the shelter. They lopped and cleared on the way, but had no tool for a three pronged blowdown. The rest of the crew walked in from TN 91, clearing brush, lopping limbs and cleaning waterbars. We all met at the shelter for lunch, then some did a flip flop for the way out. It was a fine day to be out in the woods. We met 5 hikers, all just out for the day.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 11/25/2016

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 9a, Shook Branch Road to Pond Flats

People: Jim Chambers, Connie Squires

Summary: We removed all of the recently reported blowdowns between Shook Branch Rd and the top of Pond Mountain. One step over remains, but we ran out of daylight.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 11/25/2016

Purpose: Lop rhodies, clean waterbars and steps, clear blowdown

Location: Section 5, First 2 miles south of TN 91

People: Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

Summary: We cleaned all the steps and waterbars and cut back the rhodies for the first 2 miles south of TN 91. The reported blowdown, just past the last bog bridge, was a 14" dead tree laying parallel in the trail on top of the steps put in last year by the Boy Scouts. It was too big for the saws we had, but I was able to cut a pry pole from the downed rhodies and move it off the trail; so it is no longer a problem. There is water at the spring between the bog bridges. The pipe that was installed last year has a pencil thin

discharge, but the spring box is flowing well and there are plenty of pools of water to dip from. We dispersed one fire ring and picked up the half-dozen empty gallon milk jugs at the trailhead, most of which had been chewed upon by critters. The first two miles of this section are in good shape. I will make another trip soon to check out the other reported blowdown past the monument.

Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 11/26/2016

Purpose: Routine trail maintenance

Location: Section 10, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail

People: Adam Baird, Dean Baird, Jennifer Baird

Summary: We removed a small blowdown, did some more rockwork on the trail adjacent to the creek, and removed trash.