



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

July 2017

tehcc.org

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Roan Highlands - Pic courtesy Jess Schaner

TEHCC Rental Equipment: HA-1- LEKI Cristallo Anti-Shock Trekking Poles

Vic Hasler sharing

The previous pair of Black Diamond trekking poles disappeared from the recreation office area, thus have been replaced with similar \$80 Leki aluminum poles with composite rubber handles (1 lb. 3.6 oz weight/set). While there is still some debate about damage to trail tread, trekking poles have become very common equipment for the preservation of knees while hiking steep grades. This rental item will allow members a chance to try before deciding to buy this type of equipment.

These three-section poles are adjustable within 69-135 cm (27-53 inches) using both speedlock upper and twist lock lower mechanisms. The latter is activated by holding the lock and turning the tip end counter-clockwise to loosen, reverse to tighten. During use, remove the two plastic tip protectors and two clips connecting the poles together – and pocket in your pack to not lose. (Remember to return these items with the poles to avoid a \$5 fee for their replacement.)

Rental rate “D” (\$4 weekend, \$6 week-long) for these trekking poles.



Mountain Land Protected Near A. T. on Hump and Little Hump Mountains

Joe DeLoach reporting

Although it may be hard to imagine while walking through the beautiful balds of Hump Mountain, Bradley Gap, and Little Hump Mountain, even many years after the Appalachian Trail was relocated across the Roan Highlands in 1954, this was private land. Hump Mountain had been desired as a site for the ski resort later built at Beech Mountain. In 1967, TEHCC volunteers and others first met with Oscar Julian, who owned Hump Mountain, to express an interest in conserving the land for posterity. Julian and his wife and two children enjoyed hiking, camping, hunting, and riding horses on the mountain. Over the years, he repeatedly turned down substantial offers from developers seeking to turn the Highlands of Roan into a resort area, and his wise stewardship preserved the conservation values of the area. In the early 1980s after years of negotiations, the US Forest Service purchased 1,400 acres on the North Carolina side of Hump Mountain, including the summit and what it crossed by the A. T. today. This was probably the single most important land acquisition for the A. T. in the Roan Highlands. Private ownership remained on the Tennessee side though, reaching above 5000' elevation and to within 500 feet of the Trail. Outreach to Oscar Julian's children and heirs continued for over 30 years, seeking to protect the remaining land at the head of the Shell Creek valley as additional buffer for the AT. Concerns over the development of this tract were heightened within the last 15 years when a gated community advertised as "adjacent to the Appalachian Trail" was established. Although the few homes that have been built are near the bottom of the tract, potential for development at the higher elevations in plain view of the Trail with likely high impact to the visitor experience remained.

On May 19, the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) – the nucleus of which was the TEHCC volunteers who met with Oscar Julian in 1967 – purchased 324 acres permanently protecting the northern slopes of Hump Mountain. This purchase culminated literally 50 years of effort on one of the highest priority tracts for protection in the Southern Appalachians. The purchase was made possible by a generous gift from philanthropists Fred and Alice Stanback, a US Fish & Wildlife Service Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grant, and a bridge loan from The Conservation Fund. The project has been included in



the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) requests for FY 2017 and FY 2018. The federal LWCF has funded a majority of the public land protection along the course of the A. T. in the Roan Highlands. Senator Lamar Alexander has been a supporter of the LWCF and its positive impact on Tennessee for decades. "The announcement by SAHC that it has purchased and will protect 324 acres in Carter County just 500 feet from the AT is the latest example of the important role the LWCF can play in protecting



John and Dee Julian

Tennessee's outdoors, like it has done for over 50 years," said Senator Alexander. "Efforts like these will help further preserve our state's beautiful land and recreation areas so future generations have the same opportunities to enjoy them as we have."

Other comments include:

"I oversaw the design and construction of the AT across the first, NC, tract purchased from the Julian family and have been waiting since 1983 for 'the missing piece' of the TN side to complete the setting of this Appalachian National Scenic Trail crown jewel," remarked Morgan Sommerville, ATC Deep South Regional Director.

"The Appalachian National Scenic Trail offers Americans from across the country the ability to experience a piece of history while enjoying the outdoors from Georgia to Maine," said Wendy K. Janssen, Superintendent of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

"We at the National Park Service are thrilled that the Hump

Mountain tract will be preserved and protected as part of the AT landscape. This project is a model for our Landscape Conservation Initiative with the ATC and partners such as SAHC and US Forest Service.”

“This is an outstanding example of how federal, state and private partners can work together to achieve common goals,” said JaSal Morris, Forest Supervisor, Cherokee National Forest. “When this proposed federal land acquisition is selected for funding it will be a great addition, not only to the Cherokee National Forest land base, but to the entire National Forest System.”

“This land has been in our family for years,” said Zack Julian, one of the landowners. “It belonged to my grandfather and was passed on to my dad and our family. I have so many memories, from camping to picnics and hiking up to the AT with my parents. I will forever cherish and treasure those memories, and they are part of the reason why we are excited to pass this land to SAHC. Its serenity and beauty will remain intact because we are leaving it in good hands.”

We indeed owe thanks to the Julian family for the stewardship of their beautiful mountain land, and for choosing a destiny that will enable generations to enjoy it. The only sad part of the story is that some of the people who worked so hard for the protection of these lands, such as Stan Murray and Darrol Nickels, were not able to see the fruition of their years of labors. We highly suspect they are wearing big smiles though!

ATC SORO Trail Facilities Managers

Continuing from the June newsletter, this article is an introduction of the newest staff for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) Southern Regional Office (SORO). Both started with ATC on May 17th. Their duties are very similar but geographically distinct, though they may often work as a team when that is beneficial.

Benjamin Barry, ATC SORO Trail Facilities Mgr. - Deep South bbarry@appalachiantrail.org

Ben will help coordinate the Trail and volunteer training and relations with TEHCC, CMC, NHC and GATC sections. Originally hailing from California, he received a B.S. from Humboldt State University in Natural Resources. Since then, he has traveled far and wide working trails and conserving wild places in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, California, New England and Florida, before finally landing in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

In his free time, Ben can be found running along the A.T., playing his banjo or untangling his fly line on the banks of a river.



Javier Salazar, ATC SORO Trail Facilities Mgr. – Smokies jsalazar@appalachiantrail.org

Javier oversees managing A.T. operations for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. As part of these duties, Javier manages the S.W.E.A.T. Crew and Rocky Top Crew, the Soak Ash Creek crew and RR base camp and training facility, as well as coordinates with volunteer groups and GRSM staff to ensure the appropriate management of the Appalachian Trail within the Smokies.

Javier grew up in Venezuela, and moved to Florida in 2008. After obtaining a degree in Forestry from the University of Florida, Javier has held multiple positions in the conservation field, including in a trail crew for the Florida Parks Service, as a laboratory manager for the University of Florida, operations manager for the School of Forestry, and as a Forester for a Florida land conservation program.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

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

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
July 1	Lower Watauga, Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
July 14-16	Hiawassee River Camping Weekend (Class I-II)	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
July 15	Lower Watauga, Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
July 15	3 rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-366-0128

July 20	FunFest Moonlight Hike	Kay Parker	423-963-8461
July 21	APE's Swiftwater Rescue Refresher Course	Scott Fischer	276-698-4644
July 29	Lower Watauga, Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
August 5	Babes on the Waves Pigeon River (Class II-III)	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
August 5	Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
August 12	Lower Watauga, Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
August 19	Nolichucky Picnic & First Timer's Trips		
August 25	APE's Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Course	Scott Fischer	276-698-4644

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 second Tuesday of the month, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Contact: [Kay Parker](#), 423-963-8461

Location: Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN; Bldg 75 PCRA

The Steering Committee guides the general program for the club. The Committee normally meets at lunchtime on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to all TEHCC members. Bring your lunch or grab a bite at the B-75 cafeteria. After going through the turnstiles at the main B-75 entrance, continue straight. The room is immediately to the right. Members who are not current Eastman employees need to contact a member of the Steering Committee at least three days prior to arrange for a temporary visitor's pass.

Tuesday Evenings: Johnson City Roll Practice Discontinued

Discontinued for now... The Freedom Hall Pool is closed for summer renovations, May – August.

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.

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 cleaning out waterbars and steps, lopping rhododendron, breaking up fire rings, 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. The more people who show up, the less work each individual has to do, and the trip becomes a nice hike - with tools! Contact Kim Peters (atmaint@tehcc.org) for hike details, including meeting time and place.

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 from June 15 to Aug 31: Paddle to the Grill, 6.30 pm – 9.30 pm

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

We will be alternating between Boone Lake Marina (Boonedocks Restaurant), 452 Sportsman Dock Rd, Piney Flats, TN and Davis Marina (Boonies Restaurant), 641 Buffalo Rd, Blountville, TN. We have boat ramps at both locations now. Bring your touring kayak/canoe to meet with The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (www.riverapes.org) and TEHCC (www.tehcc.org). We will launch within 30 minutes of the meeting time to paddle 3 miles to the restaurant, which takes about an hour. We'll have dinner and social hour, then paddle back under the stars. As we may be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat and a head light for when we land. PFD's and Stern Lights are TWRA Regulation. If you aren't on the contact list, call for location each week.

Biweekly on Saturdays, Lower Watauga, Class I-II, 3 pm

Leader: [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! We stop for a break about halfway down the river, so don't forget your snacks. We are usually off the water by 7:00 pm or so. After we get back to the park and transfer boats back to our vehicles, 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 the 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 paved parking area near a covered picnic area. Look for boats! Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/37X1>

Scheduled Events

APes and TEHCC Basic Swift Water Rescue Course, June 16-18, 2017

Contact: Scott Fisher at 276-698-4644

Location: Riverpark Campground, Jonesborough, TN

ACA Instuctor: Scott Fisher

Assistant Instructors: Jeremy Gass and Wesley R. Bradley

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. Sign up and bring your favorite paddling crew to this clinic. It's like buying yourself, and them, the safety line that may save your lives. The Basic SWR Course, sponsored by Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APes) and TEHCC, is one in a series of swiftwater rescue courses offered through the American Canoe Association. The course is led by ACA certified swiftwater rescue and kayak instructor Scott Fisher and is designed to teach the recreational paddler basic swiftwater rescue techniques where limited personnel and/or safety gear is available. Scott has provided instruction to hundreds of individuals, paddling clubs, firefighters, rescue personnel, staff of church youth camps, and local outfitter guides. The clinic will include classroom instruction, river skills and realistic scenarios. Successful completion of this course will prepare you to self-rescue and aid in the rescue of others in whitewater environments.

Course Overview: The Swiftwater Rescue Course teaches recognition and avoidance of common river hazards, execution of self-rescue techniques, and rescue techniques for paddlers in distress. Emphasis is placed both on personal safety and on simple, commonly used skills. Techniques for dealing with hazards that carry greater risks for both victim and rescuer, such as strainers, rescue vest applications, entrapments, and pins, also are practiced. Scenarios will provide an opportunity for participants to practice their skills both individually and within a team/group context.

Course Objectives:

- Promote proactive prevention of river accidents and injuries
- Develop and practice key self-rescue skills
- Identify and avoid river hazards by understanding hydrology, hazards, and river features
- Focus on fast, low-risk strategies for early management of river accidents
- Develop and practice methods for recovering swimmers, and loose boats and equipment
- Develop and practice more advanced rope-based and in-water skills
- Gain experience using the rescue PFD, and understand its strengths and weaknesses
- Utilize rescue scene management principles needed within a paddling group

Course Prerequisites: All paddle craft are welcome. Ideally, students should be able to competently maneuver their craft in at least class II whitewater. However, all boaters, and non-boaters with an interest in swiftwater rescue (e.g., professional rescuers), will benefit from the class. 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 equipment for class: 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 prusick loops (2 x 6-8 feet pieces of 4-5 millimeter polypropylene cord)

Who: Adults and minors 15 years and older (parent/legal guardian **MUST** accompany minor and arrange ahead). Instructors reserve the right to exclude anyone if they feel safety will be compromised.

When: Friday, June 16, 7:00pm – 9:00pm; Saturday, June 17, 8:00am – 7:00pm (Saturday Evening Session TBD); Sunday, June 18, 8:00am – 5:00pm

Where: Friday evening: Riverpark Campground (3937 Highway 81 South, Jonesborough, TN 37659); Saturday: Riverpark/Lower Nolichucky River; Sunday: Riverpark/Lower Nolichucky River

Cost: \$95; \$85 if already an APEs member; ACA members can further deduct \$5. **Registration and payment deadline is 6/9/2017 (see cancellation policy in PDF application).**

Lodging Note: Camping is available on site and should be reserved directly with Riverpark Campground.

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. APEs (or TEHCC) membership is required to participate and can also be purchased online at <http://www.riverapes.org/paypal-1.html> for \$10. No need to fill out and send in a separate membership form. Your online registration will double for that purpose.

2. Mail: [Click Here to download the PDF Registration Form](#) and mail with *payment made out to APEs* to Scott Fisher: 109 Highland Gate Dr., Johnson City, TN 37615. Those mailing in their registration can add the \$10 annual APEs membership fee to their course payment. No need to fill out and send in a separate membership form. Your registration form will double for that purpose.

ONLINE NOTE: Courses not listed in Registration Course Menu are full. Please contact Scott at scottfisher00@gmail.com to be placed on waiting list.

Questions: Feel free to contact Scott at 276-698-4644 or scottfisher00@gmail.com

Hiwassee River Camping Weekend (Class I-II), July 14-16, 2017

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

A weekend on the Hiwassee River! We're planing to drive down on Friday afternoon and camp at Gee Creek Campground, 404 Spring Creek Rd, Delano, TN. It is a very nice facility with full amenities.

Saturday: Meet at the put-in at 12:00 noon. We'll load up and convoy from the campground. We'll find a place to eat that evening after hot showers back at the campground. A campfire will be great afterwards and I'm bringing Smores!!

Sunday: Either paddle another run or drive home, it's up to you!

Campground: <http://www.stateparks.com/hiwassee.html>

FunFest Moonlight Hike, Bays Mountain Park, July 20, 2017

Contact: [Kay Parker](#), 423-963-8461

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

TEHCC has been co-sponsoring the Kingsport FunFest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park since before 1993. Over the years, this popular event has attracted larger and larger crowds. Parking space is tight at the visitors' center; therefore, to control the number of vehicles, the Moonlight Hike is a ticketed event with only 350 tickets being distributed. However, TEHCC volunteers helping with the event are not be required to have an entrance ticket. TEHCC volunteers will start the hike at the front of the walkers, and then be assigned specific intersections to direct traffic along the right path. Overall, TEHCC needs to cover roughly a dozen places with one or two people each. The event ends with a headcount back at the visitors' center by 10 pm. (Tradition is also a gift certificate to the park store for the volunteer guessing closest to the total number of people who took the hike per the official counter.) To minimize the number of TEHCC cars, we'll gather at the Eastman Lodge back parking lot at 7 pm to carpool. Otherwise, be at the back side of the visitors' center facing the lake by 7:30 pm for badges and to discuss any items relevant to the hike. The hike itself kicks off at 8 pm from the dam near the visitors' center. Bring your own flashlight/headlamp (and spare batteries), water, insect repellent, and charged cell phone. If you are interested in assisting with this event or have any questions, please contact me.

Babes on the Waves Pigeon River (Class II-III), August 5, 2017

Contact: [Debbie Briscoe](#)

The Annual "Babes On The Waves" River Run on the Pigeon River! We're making it a double trip on the Pigeon River again this year, staggering an Upper and Lower run!

- Saturday, August 5 at NOC, 3485 Hartford Rd, Hartford, TN at the NOC....
- Upper Trip (Class II-III) meeting at 11:30 lead by Jennifer Bradley & Jo Pasqua
- Lower Trip (Class I-II) meeting at 3:00 lead by Debbie Briscoe

After we're off the river we can all go out to eat.

Once a year all the female APE'ets come together to rule the river. All are welcome, even you guy's 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 5th!



Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower, August 5, 2017

Contact: [Vic Hasler](#) , 423-239-0388

Rating: Medium 10-mile round trip hike with ~1400 ft elevation gain

This hike is a joint event with BSA Troop 387 to enjoy the panoramic views of nearby mountain ranges (Clinch, Green, Roan, Buffalo, et.al.) and towns from the observation tower. The trail, designed by TEHCC members, is a steady 6% grade winding up the mountainside.

Meet in Colonial Heights early (7:30AM) to avoid some of the August heat. The drive is a half hour to the trailhead at I-26 Exit 32 Unicoi. Bring a sack lunch, water, clothing appropriate for the weather, camera, and trekking poles as desired. For more information, check the trail wiki or call the hike leader.

For the Record

A.T.: US 19E to Doll Flats, June 17, 2017

Vic Hasler reporting

This joint outing with the Mid-Appalachian Highlands Club (MAHC) was enjoyed by a combined nine hikers. Thanks to a red traffic light, different "shortcuts" were taken around Elizabethton; but everyone arrived safely at the busy trailhead. The three-mile climb was completed in $2\frac{1}{3}$ hours with stops to admire blooming galax, mountain laurel, rhododendron, and jack-in-the-pulpit. We ate our lunch in the shade at the big rock. Folks also wandered over to the Doll Flats field to be in North Carolina, to see the views into the valley and up toward Hump Mountain, and to check out the light purple phlox and other meadow flowers. A half-mile into our descent, I peered into the valley at the overlook and commented that there seemed to be heavy rain falling; and indeed, it shortly engulfed us. We continued downhill rapidly, observing the trail waterbars performing their purpose, until the cloudburst ceased. After the hike, some of the group considered stopping at Smoky Mountain Bakers in Roan Mountain, but it was packed with visitors from the Rhododendron Festival. On this hike, from both clubs, were Vic Hasler, David Jewell, Jason, Aneta, and Cohen Clark, Eric and Judy Middlemas, Rita Blankenbecler, and Roy Holcomb.



Doll Flats



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Bill Fuller

Date: 5/26/2017

Purpose: Check shelter

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Laurel Fork Shelter

People: Bill Fuller

Summary: I hiked down to the shelter from my cabin via the High Water Trail. I cleaned out the fire pit, picked up some trash, checked the log book and the water source. The stream behind the shelter is flowing great, of course, after all the rain. I had to point a couple of day-hikers back in the right direction, who were searching for Laurel Falls. The sign that used to be at the A.T./blue-blaze junction is no longer there and it seems some hikers are missing the trail down to the falls.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 5/31/2017

Purpose: Remove blowdowns and cut weeds

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

People: Richard Carter, Carl Fritz

Summary: We removed one large blowdown requiring chainsaw removal, and one smaller partially blown down tree that was a hanging over the trail. We scattered a fire ring and cut a copious amount of weeds with swing blades. It was a sunny day with perfect temperature and a few rhododendron starting to bloom.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/1/2017

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 17, Cherry Gap to Low Gap

People: Daryl Anderson, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Eric Middlemas, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: Eric cut weeds from Low Gap to Cherry Gap. We cleaned many water diversions and cut some blowdowns. Mostly, we rehabbed sloughing sections by redigging, cribbing with rocks or logs and adding a few steps. Actually, trail is looking good. Probably there is one more day of work in this particular area.

Reporting: Faye Guinn

Date: 6/2/2017

Purpose: Clean water bars and check trail

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

People: Howard Guinn, Joe Morris, Faye Guinn

Summary: Howard and I were joined by a very nice man, Joe Morris, who helped us dig out the water bars and cut up a blowdown at the spring. I think we are going to lose all the apple trees at the orchard. Thank you Mr. Morris. It was a beautiful day for a hike and for trail work. We were joined at lunch by a thru-hiker.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 6/3/2017

Purpose: Clean water bars and cut briars

Location: Section 2b, McQueens Gap to Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Steve Wilson

Summary: I cleared water bars and cut briars on my adopted section. This section is clear.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 6/4/2017

Purpose: Inspect shelter and trail; routine maintenance

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

People: Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

Summary: There have been reports that the Roan High Knob Shelter roof is leaking, so we checked it out while inspecting two other potential projects. We found no large holes in the metal roof. One section where there is not much overlap between the metal sheets could leak during rain from the south, and a nearby section of the upper floor looked to have water stains. A number of nails in the back of the shelter missed the boards and it would help to caulk them. The shelter register revealed no complaints about the roof leaking going back to April 18 though. Even though we'd left a new register in April with the one there only half full, the one register in the shelter is full. We picked up a small amount of trash. (Roan Naturalist Jess Schaney may have been there this weekend.) It would be feasible to improve the side trail to the shelter with about 12 log steps near the bottom, a few more farther up, and a rock step at one location. A concern was raised earlier this year about hikers walking into rare plants near the shelter. It is not clear from the reports and yesterday's inspection, where this impact is occurring. We whacked back a few briars, which aren't bad yet, before a thunderstorm chased us off. We'll go back soon with a new shelter register and a chainsaw to cut two easily navigated blowdowns.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 6/6/2017

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 3a, McQueen's Gap to Spring 2.3 miles North of Low Gap

People: Greg Kramer

Summary: I tried using a saw-bladed weed trimmer and determined that it was not the correct blade for cutting fine green briar stems. The blade worked well on ¼" to ¾" diameter brush.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 6/7/2017

Purpose: Mow grass

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds as needed. We also picked up and removed trash. The water source is running good. We

checked the shelter and it was in good shape.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 6/7/2017

Purpose: Mow grass

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds along the trail as needed.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 6/7/2017

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap to Greasy Creek

People: Joe Morris, Robin Dean

Summary: We cut abundant weeds and removed three small blowdowns. We encountered 11 thru-hikers on a perfect day to be on the trail.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 6/9/2017

Purpose: Section Maintenance and Environmental Monitoring

Location: Section 4a, US 421 to Double Springs Shelter

People: Dan Firth

Summary: I removed two blowdowns including one that required hikers to duck under. I also monitored one rare plant location and collected phenology observations on several monitoring locations.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 6/9/2017

Purpose: Cut down blowdown

Location: Section 10, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We started hiking the Hampton blue-blaze trail when we encountered a midsize tree 20 feet from the gate, totally blocking the trail. We retrieved our tools from the car and started cutting branches so hikers could hike over the tree. As we found out a little too late, the tree had poison ivy growing on it and Becky has since developed poison ivy on her arms and legs. Whoever comes to cut and move this tree needs to take the necessary precautions so they don't end up in the same predicament. We hiked a short distance on the A.T. and the blue-blaze loop cutting back weeds, thorns, the rhododendrons.

Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 6/9/2017

Purpose: Remove blowdown and inspect trail section

Location: Section 10, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail

People: Adam Baird, Dean Baird, Jennifer Baird

Summary: We removed the blowdown near the trailhead that was covered with a large amount of poison ivy. We picked up a large amount of trash in the parking area and placed two rocks on the trail section near the creek where heavy rock cribbing is located. Most campsites were noted to be quite clean.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/9/2017

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 17, Cherry Gap to Low Gap

People: Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Waylon Jenkins, Greg Kramer, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart

Summary: On a beautiful day, we continued the rehab of sloughing trail by installing locust side logs and back filling. We saw only six hikers today, which was the fewest in months; and many of them were south bound.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield

Date: 6/10/2017

Purpose: Shelter Maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter

People: Sue Scott, Terry Oldfield

Summary: We hiked to Double Springs Shelter from TN 91, clipping a few branches and greenbriar that were encroaching on the trail. We picked up a small amount of trash at the shelter, shoveled out the fire ring, and left a new log book. We noted that the graffiti board is full and needs to be repainted. The spring is running well. The trail is in great shape; clear, with no blowdowns, from TN 91 to the shelter. We met many hikers on the trail.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 6/10/2017

Purpose: Clear blowdown and replace shelter register

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

People: Gene Thune, Joe DeLoach

Summary: We cut two blowdowns along the A.T. near Toll House Gap and a larger one on the blue-blaze trail to the shelter. We also replaced the full shelter register, as the register we left in April had disappeared. I have never seen so many people in Carvers Gap, still a week away from the Rhododendron Festival. The bloom seemed to be at its peak at Carvers Gap and Round Bald. The mountain top areas in contrast were nowhere close to being full. The recreational use patterns on Roan Mountain have greatly changed, probably because the trail out of Carvers Gap is so much easier, coupled with the short season and user fees at the top of the mountain.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 6/10/2017

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

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

People: Ken Murray, Carl Fritz

Summary: We removed approximately nine blowdowns.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 6/13/2017

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 3a, McQueen's Gap to Spring 2.3 miles North of Low Gap

People: Greg Kramer

Summary: I used a triad blade on a weed cutter which worked very well for thin stems and up to 1/2" branches.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/15/2017

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 17, Cherry Gap to Unaka Mtn

People: Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, Brad Johnson
"Compassionator"

Summary: We continued rehab of the trail that is sloughing due to roots primarily. Greg, Kevin and Brad finished the work between Cherry Gap Shelter and Low Gap by adding some locust cribbing and some more water diversions. We also started working trail south from Low Gap. Brad was a thru-hiker in 2010 and is from Oklahoma. He initiated contact with us through the ATC website a couple of weeks ago since business was bringing him to the Charlotte area. He plans to be back in about a year to help again. He was impressed by how hard we work and what a difference we make to the trail tread way. It was a hot day, even in these higher mountains.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 6/17/2017

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Lowell Toof, Phyllis Cairnes, Rolla Wade, Lori Mirrer, Kim Peters

Summary: Summer is weed cutting time and for this "Third-Saturday Hiking with Tools" trip we tackled the encroaching vegetation along this section with string trimmers, swing blades and loppers. We split into two groups with one group hiking out to the shelter and working their way back and the other starting at the Forest Service road crossing and working their way out. We finished up before the afternoon storms arrived, but unfortunately we were still 2 miles from our vehicles; so the walk back was a little on the wet side. In fact, the heavy rainfall turned the trail into a river and besides giving us all wet feet, it was clear that some water diversions are needed on this section! Many thanks to the hard working volunteers on this trip who endured heat, humidity and rain showers to get this section into good shape.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 6/20/2017

Purpose: Whack weeds

Location: Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US19E, North end of section

People: Kevin Sedgwick

Summary: The great weed whack of 2017 has begun. We started at northern end and worked south. Its going to take a few more trips to finish up. We saw a surprising number of hikers going both directions today.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 6/20/2017

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 3a, McQueens Gap hillside

People: Greg Kramer

Summary: A long bedded 4X4 truck has been driving up to the "Holiday Inn" Shelter. To hopefully keep the trucks out, I dug out where the right wheel pushes the truck over the berm, making it a longer reached to get over the berm. I dug a drainage ditch on the other side to again impede the truck getting over the berm. I also placed two 25" thick rotten logs either side of the major channel draining water off the FS road that is the trail. I rocked and added dirt to secure the logs and dug a long ditch from the drain ditch on the right side and over to the left side. This should take all water coming down over the hill to the McQueen's Gap Road ditch. I dug one more smaller water diversion and found rocks to make a step.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 6/21/2017

Purpose: Mow grass

Location: Section 4a, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds along the Accessible Trail. We also tightened the bolts on the cattle gate.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 6/21/2017

Purpose: Mow grass

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds at the camping area at the Barn and cut weeds along all the trails at the Shelter. We also cleaned the water source and picked up and removed trash.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/21/2017

Purpose: Rehab trail

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

People: Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Jimmy Mills, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe and SAHC plus ATC: Ethan Brickwood, Hillary Reyes, Kalen Gilliam, Jennifer Lam, Khicher Mckentie, Joseph Cordova, Tamia Dame, Tevin Moore, Jeremiah Roy, Natriefia Miller, Travis Bordley

Summary: Eight young people from Conservation Leadership Corps, plus a couple of folks from SAHC, joined five TEHCC maintainers on Round Bald. Travis, the naturalist from SAHC provided us an overview of SAHC and especially the Roan Highlands. We then set about to rehab the trail above tree line to about half way to Round Bald peak. We lowered many of the high log steps either by actually lowering the logs or filling in base with gravel. We also blocked the extra trail paralleling the A.T. and the old A.T. with rocks, brush and sod. The crew worked hard and we made significant progress. Hikers were in the hundreds even though rhodos are no longer blooming.

Reporting: Eric Middlemas

Date: 6/21/2017

Purpose: Routine Summer Maintenance

Location: Section 18, FS230 Switchback to FS230 crossing below Beauty Spot

People: Mike Hupko, Lana Scott, Howard Guinn, David Polon, Pat Kenney, Bruce Darby, Jeannine Edwards, Tim Shipley, Janice Miller, David Douthat, Eric Middlemas, Judy Middlemas, Rich Ritter, David Fay, Scott Thomsen

Summary: We mowed the section with string trimmers and swing blades, lopped larger woody growth, and picked up trash. A large blowdown was noted south of Beauty Spot Gap near the old rail fence.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/22/2017

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 17, South of Low Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, Ben Barry

Summary: Ben Barry the new SORO Trail Facilities Manager joined us for the day and hopes to continue to do so frequently. Kevin and Ben knew each other from the Florida Trail and Pacific Crest Trail. It rained pretty hard at 10 AM, but it cleared for rest of the day. We continued the rehab south of Low Gap by cribbing with logs and rocks and adding a number of log steps.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield



Date: 6/25/2017

Purpose: Paint Double Springs Shelter graffiti board

Location: Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter

People: Kim Peters, Terry Oldfield

Summary: Hiking to Double Springs Shelter from TN 91 we cleared two small blowdowns from the trail. At the shelter, we painted over the graffiti on the graffiti board using three coats of Kilz primer. While waiting for the paint to dry, we dismantled a small fire ring down by the spring, and cleaned out and reconstructed a larger fire ring at the campsite north of the shelter. We also picked up a small amount of trash at the shelter. The paint took longer to dry than expected, probably because it was a cool, humid day. It's better to paint graffiti boards on hot, dry days. Also, Kim and I saw a new A.T. symbol on the side of the barn on Osborne Farm and have since learned it was constructed by the Forest Service.