



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

August 2017

tehcc.org

Co-Editors – [Koustubh Kulkarni](#) and [Terry Oldfield](#)

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Dan Firth – Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club

Dan Firth has volunteered 500 hours on the Appalachian Trail with the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club. He has served on its A.T. committee, monitored rare plants, and recently became an A.T. section maintainer. He monitors seven phenology sites along his Trail section, which involves tracking and reporting seasonal changes in the life cycle of the species being monitored. Since retiring from the Eastman Chemical Company last year, he has eagerly taken on more responsibilities.

Matt Drury, ATC's Southern regional resource management coordinator, says, "Dan is our most prolific rare-plant monitor in the region, and often seeks new populations to monitor. He is also helping us monitor for ash trees and the emerald ash borer and will be surveying most of the likely ash sites on the Trail in Tennessee this year. This information will help managers prioritize areas for treatment against the emerald ash borer."

This year, Dan and Matt are conducting a campsite survey of Roan Mountain, covering more than 20 miles along the Trail. The Roan Highlands area has the highest concentration of rare species found along the entire A.T. They are surveying areas impacted by camping, classifying the ground cover into condition classes, and looking at canopy cover, exposed soil, and other conditions. The next step will be to analyze the data and develop a report for Trail managers.

Dan lives in Kingsport, Tennessee, with his wife and their son and daughter. A section hiker, he has completed the Trail from the Springer Mountain approach trail to Front Royal, Virginia. He was involved in Boy Scouts as a youth and with his son, and he continues to be involved with the Sequoyah Council. Besides the opportunities for outdoor experiences and education, Dan says that the Scouting emphasis on service and volunteering often has an impact that carries into adulthood.



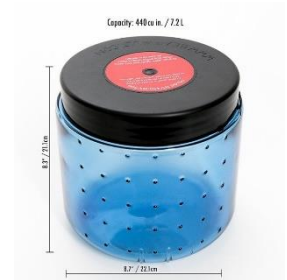
Dan calculates the basal area of ash trees in search of areas with suitable density to prioritize for emerald ash borer treatment (photo by Matt Drury)

Dan most enjoys monitoring the rare plant populations and appreciates the ability to make a difference as a volunteer: "Having a scientific basis for decision-making through observation and analyzing impacts on rare plants and on the biodiversity of an area is key to protecting them." The data he is gathering will provide important information to Trail managers on protecting rare plants.

TEHCC Rental Equipment: HA-5/6 – BearVault Solo food storage

Vic Hasler sharing

The official recommendation by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is to use a bear-resistant food storage container for all backpacking trips south of Damascus, VA. To enable this policy, the club purchased two BearVault Solo storage containers at ~\$60 each to allow hiking couples to protect their grub. The 440-cu. in. size is suitable for a weekend trip. Each bottle weighs 2 lbs., 1 oz. While overall container diameter is 8.7", the opening is only 7". It has an extra use as a short seat in camp. Remember that bear-resistant does not mean perfectly bear-proof. A good recommendation is to learn how to consistently open the container before leaving on your trip. Many reviews mention a challenge to open with cold hands, thus tips like using a spork or plastic card are given.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Jerry Riddle
Joshua Tullock
Andrew Zuehlke
Katie Flickinger

James Hunter
Corey Dobbins
R Porter
Brandon Williamson

Austin Brown

Gregory Wellman
Jay Nunley
Alyson Browett
Brandi Echols

Kimberly Risner
Kayger Duran-Mateo
Rebecca DeMarco
Perry Davis

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
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 11	APE's & TEHCC Basic Swift Water Rescue Course	Scott Fischer	276-698-4644
August 12	Lower Watauga, Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
August 18	ASU Students	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
August 19	Nolichucky Picnic & First Timer's Trips		
August 19	3 rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
August 25	APE's Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Course	Scott Fischer	276-698-4644
September 16	3 rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
Sep 22-24	GAF Nantahala River		

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>

Third Thursday Socials, YEE-HAW Brewery/White Duck Taco, 6:30pm – 8:30 pm

Leader: [Steven Adams](#), 423-534-3636

Come join your fellow APEs the third Thursday of every month at YEE-HAW Brewery/ White Duck Taco Johnson City, TN (6:30-8:30). This is a social event for all APEs members and prospective members. This is to provide an opportunity for all paddlers novice to expert and flat-water to Class V to make friends while playing bocce ball, corn hole and enjoying tacos and beverages. We will casually discuss any topics of interest such as equipment, safety, swims, carnage, and weekend paddling plans. This event may change location in the future to meet up with "Paddle to the Grill". If possible please rsvp before going to get an area saved but walk ins are welcomed. Message Steven Adams (campingskeeter@gmail.com) with any questions.

Scheduled Events

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's 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.



APEs and TEHCC Basic Swift Water Rescue Course, Aug 11-13, 2017

Contact: Scott Fisher at 276-698-4644

Location: Riverpark Campground, Jonesborough, TN

ACA Instructor: 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, Aug 11, 7:00pm – 9:00pm; Saturday, Aug 12, 8:00am – 7:00pm (Saturday Evening Session TBD); Sunday, August 13, 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

AT Maintenance with ASU, Cross Mountain Road, TN 91 near Shady Valley, TN, Aug 18 – 8am-5pm

Watauga Global Community of Appalachian State University will bring their freshmen students plus upper classmen to dig Old Ridge Road relocation north of Osborne Farm

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

APE's & TEHCC Advance Swift Water Rescue Course – Aug 25, 2016

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

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

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Reinforce skills learned in the Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course
- Practice skills during multiple scenarios

- Refine and extend critical judgment through multiple scenarios
- Develop and practice more advanced rope-based and in-water skills

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

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

Where: Nolichucky Gorge

When: August 26 optional knot-tying practice evening prior Aug 25th for those interested)

Cost: \$85; APEs members can deduct \$10; ACA members can further deduct \$5 (**Non-Refundable after Aug 19th unless replacement found**)

Time: Sat: 8:00 A.M.–6:00 P.M. (EST) optional knot-tying Fri eve 7:00-9:00 P.M.

Lodging Options: Camping is available at Riverpark Campground or Nolichucky Gorge Campground, reserve with either campground directly. Closest hotel is Mountain Inn & Suites, 2002 Temple Hill Rd, Erwin, TN (423) 743-4100.

Class Size: Class will be limited to 10 participants

REGISTRATION: There are two ways to register:

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

2. **Mail:** [Click Here to download the PDF Registration Form](#) and mail in with *payment made out to APEs to Scott Fisher: 109 Highland Gate Dr., Johnson City, TN 37615* by **8/19/2017**. No need to fill out and send in a separate membership form. Your registration form will also double for your APE's membership form.

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

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

For the Record

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

Kay Parker reporting

A HUGE "Thank You" to everyone who came out to support our volunteer commitment at the FunFest Moonlight Hike around Bays Mountain Lake. It was a beautiful night with more than 200 hikers participating. TEHCC volunteers stood at trail intersections to keep everyone on the right path. Participants were Mike and Billie Carrier and friend, Vic Hasler, William Werner and his wife, Robert Miller (98 years young!), Marc Schurgher, Neil, Elizabeth, Daniel and Joseph Dotson, and Rick Eldreth. Billie Carrier won a gift certificate by guessing closest to number of hikers.





A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 6/26/2017

Purpose: Section Maintenance, Rare Plant Monitoring, Phenology

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

People: Dan Firth

Summary: I monitored a TN endangered plant species not previously noted on the section, monitored phenology sites, and cut back briars.

Reporting: Eric Middlemas

Date: 6/26/2017

Purpose: Summer maintenance

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS230 Switchback

People: Eric Middlemas, Pat Kenney, Lana Scott, Wayne Jones, Rich Ritter, Caro Dellenbaugh, Jeannine Edwards, Tim Shipley, David Polon, Bruce Darby, Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko, Judy Middlemas

Summary: Our group split into 3 crews: one started at the switchback at FS230 and proceeded north over Unaka Mtn toward Low Gap; a second crew started at Iron Mtn Gap and headed toward Cherry Gap; and a 3rd crew started at the Cherry Gap parking area on Red Fork Rd, walked up a FS road to Cherry Gap and mowed to the shelter and then toward Iron Mtn Gap. We picked up a considerable amount of trash at Cherry Gap Shelter. We cleaned out the sump of one of the springs. Both springs were running well. We completed mowing for the entire section except for approximately a 1/2 mile section south of Low Gap. Mowing has been completed on the trail from Iron Mtn Gap to the FS 230 crossing south of Beauty Spot (except for the section mentioned above). Several minor blowdowns were noted between Iron Mtn Gap and Cherry Gap and just south of Beauty Spot Gap. These will be taken care of in the next few weeks.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 6/28/2017

Purpose: Trim weeds and other maintenance

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap

People: Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: We trimmed weeds along the trail.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 6/28/2017

Purpose: Whack weeds

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

People: Kevin Sedgwick, Gloria Sedgwick

Summary: Chapter 2 of the Great Weed-Whack Marathon. Today's fun is brought to you by Stihl. As dawn breaks our intrepid hero is shuttled my his love, Gloria. Kevin finds weeds, hay, rose etc. higher than past years. Warm winter and lots of rain this year? Golly, our hero thinks as it becomes a long day. The occasional hiker passing and awesome views breaks up the whine of the weed wacker. His dreaded enemy, poison ivy, comes in abundant quantities today. Tonight is brought to you by Ivarest poison ivy cream. Our hero gives it a gallant try, but the trail is too much. He will be back to finish the rest.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/29/2017

Purpose: Rehab trail

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

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Bill Murdoch, Brian Paley, Kim Peters, Mike Price, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We continued to rehab steps and waterbars. Mostly, we added gravel at their base or lowered the logs. We also continued to redefine the trail. In many places the sod has grown a foot over the uphill side of the trail. We just have a few more logs to work with to get to the top of Round Bald. It was good to have Lumpy working with us today.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 6/30/2017

Purpose: Barricade McQueen's Gap from 4 Wheelers

Location: Section 3a, McQueen's Gap

People: Greg Kramer, Joe Morris

Summary: Four-wheelers were going to the Holiday Inn Shelter. We put in two 4" posts with a cross bar on top. These posts placed in the wheel tracks and the cross bar narrow the passageway. No narrowing of the footpath was done. We cleared a fresh blowdown just south of the shelter. No one had tried to get around the blowdown when we found it and a section hiker came through as we finished. We worked on water diversions and checked out an area needing some upgrade in the future.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 7/1/2017

Purpose: Summer vegetation control

Location: Section 20b, Spivey Gap to Devils Creek Gap

People: Ken Murray, Lotta Murray

Summary: We did routine summer vegetation control. There were several minor step-over blowdowns.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/1/2017

Purpose: Cut weeds and site bridge

Location: Section 13, South of US 19E

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

Summary: We cut 8-foot weeds and multiflora rose at the site of the new Wildermine Bridge. We may have to locate the new bridge at the existing bridge site because it is not long enough to get solidly on top of the banks.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 7/2/2017

Purpose: Routine Summer Vegetation Control

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

People: Ken Murray, Lotta Murray

Summary: This was the third time on our section to control summer vegetation growth.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/2/2017

Purpose: Inspect Bridge Site

Location: Section 13, South of US 19E

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

Summary: We inspected possible bridge sites and settled on the one specified 23 feet downstream from the current bridge. A rock crib will be desired along the north bank since it is very steep and is showing signs of being undercut.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 7/3/2017

Purpose: Whack weeds

Location: Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US 19E, Southern end of section

People: Kevin Sedgwick

Summary: Chapter 3, Return of the Maintainer! Our bewildered hero returns to vanquish the evil weeds. Again, Kevin is amazed at how much has grown and in areas that never have been a problem. With a firm hand on his trusty weed whacker and sweat on brow, down the trail he went. With an occasional hiker to talk to and cloud cover, it was not too bad. Again his enemy, poison ivy, was heavy at times. Finally it was over. Dancing hikers will enjoy the clear trail. But wait; I feel there is a problem. We will be back next year to do this again! ☺

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 7/4/2017

Purpose: Paint blazes

Location: Section 20a, Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I repainted most of the blazes; may have missed a few. I also did some handsaw clearing of branches sticking into the trail. I saw one southbound hiker headed for Springer. It seemed to me that working on the nation's premier trail on the 4th was more patriotic than pigging out on beer and barbecue and filling the air with obnoxious noises. But that's just me. (Editor's comment: Yes, a better choice.)

Reporting: Carl Fritz

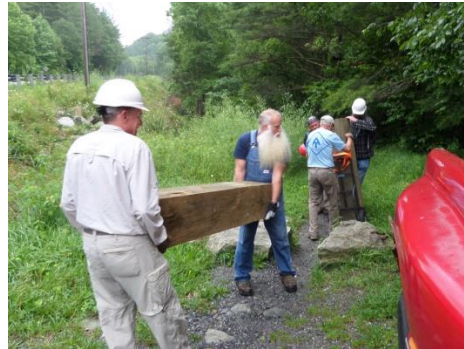
Date: 7/6/2017

Purpose: Build bridge

Location: Section 13, Wildermine Bridge between US 19E and Doll Flats

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Becky Kinder, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters, Mike Price, Gayle Riddervold, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: What a crew of volunteers! Everyone knows their skills and applies them. A friend loaned his 16-foot trailer to haul the 22' stringers and bridge lumber. We built the new Wildermine bridge to the deck. Hand rails and posts are a future endeavor. Part of the crew cleared the new trail to access the bridge. And a big part of the crew built a rock crib wall about 20 feet long and four feet high on the north bank of the stream.



Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 7/9/2017

Purpose: Paint blazes

Location: Section 5, First mile south of TN 91

People: Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

Summary: The last "3rd Saturday" group worked on this section, but skipped the first half-mile. So this trip was to check the trail on the first half-mile and paint the blazes. We cleaned out the water bars and steps, cut back rhodys, picked up trash and dismantled several fire rings - one still smoking, checked the water source and painted the blazes on the first mile of this section. The as yet vacant kiosk is starting to collect graffiti and is being carved upon and written upon.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 7/9/2017

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and briars

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Cloudland

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I cut three blowdowns reported by Roan Naturalist Jess Schaner about a mile Trail south of Carvers Gap. These had come down since our first trip in April. I trimmed brush and blackberries along this section; then drove to Cloudland and cut brush and many more blackberries in the three sunny areas between Cloudland and Roan High Know Shelter. The blazes are good between Cloudland and the shelter, but need freshening between Carvers Gap and the shelter.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/10/2017

Purpose: Mow grass

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds along the trails and in the camping area at the Barn. We picked up trash and removed rocks from the camping area. There is plenty of water in both springs.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/10/2017

Purpose: Mow trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Ted Mowery, Paul Benfield

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds along the trail across the Osborne Farm. We had some electrical problems with the mower. Some of the poles on the stiles need to be replaced.

Reporting: Ken Buchanan

Date: 7/11/2017

Purpose: Trim weeds

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

People: Ken and Pat Buchanan, Anita Long

Summary: A usually reliable source (Kim) informed me that it was time to get moving on weed and greenbriar trimming. She was correct, trimming was due, but not overdue. We started early to avoid the hottest part of the day. We used string trimmer, loppers and hand shears to clear the trail to the shelter. We met one young lady day hiker. A lovely outing which should hold the section until the rerouting is completed, I believe.

Reporting: Eric Middlemas

Date: 7/12/2017

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to FS230 crossing

People: Eric Middlemas

Summary: I mowed the section from Indian Grave Gap to FS Road 230. This section contains much woody growth which should be cut back with a string trimmer equipped with a blade instead of string. I painted blazes for the water sources at Deep Gap and just north of Beauty Spot (where FS230 is next to the trail). I also checked the springs. The spring just north of Beauty Spot is barely a trickle.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/13/2017

Purpose: Complete Wildermine Bridge

Location: Section 13, Between US 19E and Doll Flats

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: The willing and capable crew finished the new Wildermine bridge by adding posts and hand rails. Most of the crew worked on turnpiking the southern approach. The bridge looks like it should last many decades. Yay!



Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 7/14/2017

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 8, From US 321 and around lake

People: Brian Paley

Summary: I cut very overgrown multi-flora roses from US 321 to beyond the Forest Service gate. I also cleared one blowdown near bog bridge.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 7/14/2017

Purpose: Remove debris

Location: Section 13, South of US 19E

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I removed the remaining debris from the new bridge construction south of US 19E.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 7/15/2017

Purpose: Cut annual growth, paint blazes

Location: Section 15b, Hughes Gap to Ash Gap

People: Lori Mirrer, Judith Ratcliffe, Kim Kreuzman, Heather Sheppard, Kim Peters

Summary: For this July "3rd Saturday - Hiking with Tools" trip we headed to higher elevation for cooler temperatures and tackled the prodigious weeds growing between Hughes Gap and Ash Gap. Many thanks to the amazing group of Rogue Dames who traveled 3 hours from Charlotte to help accomplish this much needed task. In addition to cutting the head-high weeds, we painted the blazes all along this section, as well as the two blue-blaze trails to the water sources, brushed in places where hikers are cutting switchbacks and picked up a minimal amount of trash at the campsites. There is a large blowdown about head high on the water trail about 0.5 mile north of Hughes Gap. We experienced some thunder and a few sprinkles around lunchtime, but mostly enjoyed the cooler temperatures (much cooler than Charlotte!) on this partly cloudy day. Surprisingly, we only saw two other hikers all day.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/15/2017

Purpose: Rehab water trail

Location: Section 2b, Abingdon Gap water trail

People: Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart, Steve Wilson; ATC -Ben Barry; Troop 135-Doug Bushong, Gary Kennedy, Lewis Brooks, Clay Brooks, John Logan Maddox, Caleb Strickler

Summary: Steve cut back most of the weeds. We all worked on installing locust steps on the Abingdon Gap water trail. The scouts really got into hauling locust logs, digging them in and mining dirt to back fill. They also helped retrieve many rocks to fill in the edges of the steps to prevent water and hikers from avoiding the steps. Rain held off and even 11-year-old Clay said he had a fun day. He said, "At home my father doesn't let me dig in the yard and I really get tired of cutting weeds." He sounds like a future trail maintainer!

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/18/2017

Purpose: Check Trail

Location: Section 14a, Wildermine to Hump Mountain

People: Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz

Summary: We walked the trail from Wildermine up to Hump. The good news is the trail is in great shape, especially after all the Hard Core and Thursday outings in 2015. There is some minor rehab closer to Hump. The bad news is there is not sufficient work for Wright State University students. We did remove some minor blowdowns with the largest being 10 inches. We also cleaned some of the waterbars up near Dolls Flat. Some more could be cleaned but we had no digging tools.

Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 7/20/2017

Purpose: Inspect and maintain trail section

Location: Section 9b, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail

People: Dean Baird, Jennifer Baird

Summary: We cut weeds under the power lines using a string trimmer and machete, and did machete work ONLY where the trail was immediately adjacent to the creek. We removed a large garbage bag full of trash.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/20/2017

Purpose: Repair shelter and prepare for relo

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

People: Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart and SCA: Erika Hoad, Amy Spinden, Ted Turner

Summary: We were pleased to have the three-member Student Conservation Association crew (SCA) join us today. They are working on Cherokee for about five months. Part of the crew installed hardware cloth and framing under the sleeping platform at the shelter. The rest of the crew cut weeds on the Old Ridge Road relocation to start preparing for Watauga College, ASU.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 7/22/2017

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Jim Chambers, Connie Squires

Summary: We removed all reported blowdowns between US 19E and Doll Flats.

Reporting: Richard S Carter

Date: 7/22/2017

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14c, North side of Grassy Ridge

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I cut weeds, mostly briars and nettles, in the areas where they encroached most.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/24/2017

Purpose: Mow trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds along the A.T. and the Accessible Trail across the Osborne Farm. We also mowed around the entrance to the barn.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/25/2017

Purpose: Inspect Trail

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS230 switchback, Just north of Cherry Gap

People: Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz

Summary: We were checking on a good trail rehab project for Wright State University students for mid August. Just north of Cherry Gap a couple of switchbacks need log cribbing and some steps.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/27/2017

Purpose: Trail Prep for ASU

Location: Section 4b, Between Double Springs Shelter and TN 91, Old Ridge Road

People: Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Ezekiel Grzenda, Paul Grzenda, Waylon Jenkins, Greg Kramer, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, George Thorpe

Summary: We did some more preparation for the upcoming Watauga College (ASU) outing. Daryel also refreshed blazes on the Accessible Trail and put blazes on new rock cairns across the pasture. We had trucks within 1000 feet of everyone at the end of the day when the drenching rain came.