



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

October 2017

tehcc.org

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

In This Issue

[Fall Dinner Meeting – Friday, November 3, 2017](#)

[Backbone Rock Trail Improvement](#)

[New Members](#)

[Event Schedule – Next Two Months](#)

[Details of Upcoming Events](#)

[For the Record](#)

[A.T. Maintenance Reports](#)



Fall Dinner Meeting – Friday, November 3, 2017

By this date, the weather may be turning colder, thus a great time to gather inside to enjoy a meal together with friends while hearing about an adventure. Ben Barry, new ATC SORO Trail Facilities Manager, will share his experiences working with the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). They may have not been as *Wild* as the movie, but will provide us with a perspective of a different long-distance trail.

Event	Time	Details
Fall Dinner Meeting	5:30pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
Happy "Trails" Hour	5:30pm-6:30pm	Donations accepted for beer and wine, or BYOB
Dinner: Kabob skewers, Baked potato, Salad bar, Rolls, Cobbler, Tea/Coffee	6:30pm-7:15pm	Catered by Sugar & Spice Catering (\$10 per adult)
Club Business	7:15pm-8:00pm	Update of club activities
Special Program: Pacific Crest Trail	8:00pm-9:00pm	Ben Barry

There is no charge for attending the program only. If you would like to eat, please ensure your reservation has been received by Monday, October 30th 8:00am so that a final headcount can be given to the caterer. A reservation form is located at the end of this newsletter or click [here](#) for a printable copy.

Backbone Rock Trail Improvement

Carl Fritz reporting

This improvement typifies similar improvements we do on the Appalachian Trail. TEHCC maintainers sometimes use the Backbone Rock Trail to access the Appalachian Trail. Also, the U.S. Forest Service have a long term desire to make a better loop trail using the AT, Backbone Rock Trail and Iron Mountain Trail. Thus, TEHCC agreed to help improve this long side trail. It was notorious for having very steep trail sections. Ed Oliver and Jim Foster spent many days traversing the area and flagging potential relocations. By 2012 the Watauga Ranger District had approved these relocations after completing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with the corresponding biological surveys.

It took six years to dig all these relocations while we were working on other projects on the AT. We recruited other groups to help. For example, Konnarock crew provided five weeks of work. And Watauga Residential Community of ASU brought about 90 students for three days over three years. TEHCC members in addition to working with these groups spent seven days digging some of these relocations by themselves.

What does that all add up to? Visualized in about 2008, digging was started in 2012 and completed on September 21, 2017. The original trail was 2.3 miles. After digging 1.6 miles of new trail, we have now established a trail of 2.7 miles. Even though it is a steady climb, it is more gradual and more sustainable. Hopefully, the Backbone Rock Trail will exist for many years.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Igor Tokarev

Jim Weiland

Karen Perry

Kaitlyn Jefferson

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
October 7	A.T.: TN 91 to Double Springs Shelter	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
October 9	UNC Charlotte Trail Maintenance	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
November 3	Fall Dinner - Pacific Crest Trail	Kay Parker	423-963-8461
November 18	Laurel River Trail	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388

Standard Hike Information

Hikes leaving from “Colonial Heights” gather at the parking lot below McDonalds, 4317 Fort Henry Drive, which is NW of I-81 Exit 59. The “Johnson City” meeting location is behind Parkway Discount Wine & Liquor just off I-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, 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.

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](#).

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

A.T.: TN 91 to Double Springs Shelter, Saturday, October 7, 2017

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

Rating: *Six mile round trip in-out with 630' elevation change to measure the A.T. after relocation*

With assistance of the ASU Watauga Residential College freshmen, several relocations were opened on August 18th along this A.T. section. This hike is to confirm that the official trail distance between the highway and the shelter is still 3.0 miles as stated in the A.T. data and guide books, using a rolling wheel.

Meet in Colonial Heights at 8:30am for an hour drive to the trailhead. I'm expecting 90 minutes up the ridgeline to reach the shelter. After enjoying lunch, we'll head back down at a faster pace. Roughly back home before 2pm. For further information, please call/e-mail the hike leader.

Laurel River Trail, Saturday, November 18, 2017

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

Rating: 7.2 mile round trip in-out mostly flat.

A moderately easy joint hike with the Mid-Appalachian Highlands Club (MAHC) near Hot Springs, NC. Our goal is to explore a rails-to-trail conversion along Big Laurel Creek on an old railroad bed previously used to carry logs to the sawmill in the former town of Runion on the French Broad River. The trail is flat, mostly tree-covered, and with views of the rivers.

Sunrise is 7:15am, so let's meet in Colonial Heights at 8am to carpool to Johnson City to meet MAHC by 8:30am for an hour drive to the trailhead. The hike itself is only 3-3.5 hours long. Afterwards, the plans are to have a late (1pm) lunch at Dave's 209 in Hot Springs, then return by 4pm. For further information and to let us know of your interest, please call/e-mail the hike leader.

For the Record

Old Dug Trail, Saturday, September 16, 2017

Vic Hasler reporting

The exploratory designation for this hike was justified. The first challenge was that Flatwoods Road (on Google Maps) is signed "Holston Mountain Rd" at US-19E. After a couple of miles winding up the hollow, Big Creek Road (no sign) splits off to the right. An orange diamond "Road Closed Ahead" sign is visible and one source indicated the roadway is rough. I then decided to take a long detour to come down the USFS road from the north. Big Creek Road is closed 0.33 mile north of the trailhead as the path is being attacked by two very large sink holes. The USFS has put up barriers, dumped boulders, and dropped trees in recent weeks to close the road.

The second challenge was no trailhead sign or blazes. The path is a rutted and rocky logging road which heads up the mountain. The trail appeared to have had some ATV use. I met a hiker who indicated the riders were former neighbors that have moved out of the area. Rhododendrons were encroaching on the trail, so I clipped on my way up and back.

The third challenge was meeting a pair of hunters whose dogs had chased a bear cub up the mountain. I pulled out my blaze orange vest to wear during the rest of the hike. At that point, I decided to only hike up 1.4 miles to the overlook and not continue the full 2.1 miles to where it intersects another trail.

Reward for the hike was a small overlook with views to the west – the green plateau with Bays and Clinch Mountains in the distance. My conclusion is that this trail will remain a lesser used path in the region. If you are interested in exploring this side of Holston Mountain, the TEHCC trail wiki is being updated with relevant information.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 8/17/2017

Purpose: Roan Naturalist End-of-Season Review

Location: Appalachian Ranger District Office, Mars Hill, NC

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: Jess Schaner served as the Roan Naturalist, managed by SAHC (Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy) and ATC with support from TEHCC and the USFS, during the summer of 2017. She met with over 10,000 Trail users starting the weekend before Memorial Day until the weekend before this final review. Matt Drury from ATC, Marquette Crockett from SAHC, and Appalachian RD Biologist Susan Fruchey joined the review. Forest Service participation with the Roan Naturalist was lower than in some past years. As in past years, the Roan Naturalist had challenges with impacts to rare plants from trampling, campfires, and picking. The possibility of designating or at least recommending campsites was discussed. Users have shifted from the Roan Day-Use Area to Carvers Gap, probably because of the much easier A.T. and the entry fee to the day-use area. We discussed ways to better equalize the impact and relieve some pressure on Carvers Gap and the balds.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 8/28/2017

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds in the camping area and along the trails as needed. We picked up a small bag of trash and disposed of rocks in the camping area. The spring is running strong.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 8/29/2017

Purpose: Clear trailside vegetation

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

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I did weed whacking in the middle of Temple Ridge. My section is now clear and open.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 8/30/2017

Purpose: Polish Trail relocation

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

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Kim Peters and SCA: Erika Hoad, Amy Spinden, Ted Turner

Summary: Ken lopped encroaching vegetation to the shelter. Kim painted more blazes on the trail relocation. We all worked on smoothing and filling some cribbing on the Old Ridge Road trail relocation; also on some of the trail rehab we did with ASU students.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 9/2/2017

Purpose: First Aid and CPR Training

Location: Holiday Inn Express, Johnson City

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I took the American Heart Association CPR/AED/First Aid training as part of chainsaw certification.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 9/4/2017

Purpose: Remove blowdowns and cut back summer growth

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

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: Rising before sunrise to take advantage of a gorgeous Labor Day, I removed nine blowdowns of 12" or smaller diameter using the club's Silky Katanaboy folding saw. Most were dead pines in the Jones Branch lowlands with the largest being on the way up to the shelter. The second task was to cut back the summer growth of small trees and rhododendron from along the path. My final action was to remove a few bags of trash from the parking lots at the Nolichucky River and outfitters.

Remaining are four blowdowns which will require a chainsaw. One slide-over is north of the steep rock-face steps, thus may be easier to access from the outfitter's parking lot. The next two are big step-overs north of the second bridge. The fourth duck-under is north of the third bridge. All of them are passable and backpackers remain on the trail, thus considered lower priority for urgency of removal. Digital pictures are available for all four with a set of Fiskars loppers in the photos for size reference.

Part of the trail below the bottom of the rock-face steps has been torn away by a blowdown falling downhill from the path. It would be a simple project to locate rock and fill dirt to repair the tread; a 4-6 person job.

Unfortunately, I saw the first graffiti incident along the Trail since I began maintaining this section in late 2014. "M+L" was spray-painted in blue on a rock face. I believe either of the cleaning solutions used by USFS or promoted by ATC VARO would be effective.

Curley Maple Gap Shelter was observed to be in good condition - with no trash. I removed the oldest, filled logbook and dropped off a blank composition binder that hopefully will not fill up until spring. The water source at the shelter is clear and flowing slowly. Jones Branch was also flowing at minimum levels, except is dry by the first bridge.

Task for the next trip is to break up the half-dozen or so fire rings which have been replaced since the last removal effort in March 2015.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 9/5/2017

Purpose: Cut vegetation

Location: Section 11b, Canute Place

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: I went in via the Moreland Gap Shelter access trail. I cleared rhodos from the trail. The water source looked good and was flowing well.

I hiked out to Canute Place carrying a scythe for the first time. Although cumbersome to carry, it performed well against the tall grass at the Canute Place. I disturbed some yellow jackets and got stung once ouch! My arm swelled up but OK otherwise. I also cleared the blue-blaze trail to the spring which is flowing well, cleaned out the fire pit, and hung a new water directional sign.

Moreland Gap Shelter was in good condition, unfortunately I forgot to bring paint for the graffiti board. Broom, rake and shovel were in place. I cleaned out the fire pit and then hauled out some trash.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 9/7/2017

Purpose: Mow

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.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 9/7/2017

Purpose: Whack weeds

Location: Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap

People: Joe Morris

Summary: The great weed whack of 2017 continues. I cut weeds for about 3 miles of the Section and removed a couple of small blowdowns. It was an amazing-weather day on the trail.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 9/7/2017

Purpose: Check trail

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap trail south for 4 miles

People: Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: We had a great day cleaning the waterbars and cutting 5 blowdowns. One was quite large, but thanks to the big Silky, we got it done.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 9/8/2017

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 3b, Spring to US 421

People: Greg Kramer

Summary: I cut head-high stinging nettle.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 9/8/2017

Purpose: Sawyer Training

Location: ATC Soak Ash Facility

People: Mike "Lumpy" Price, Kevin Sedgwick

Summary: Lumpy and Kevin completed Sawyer Training at the ATC Soak Ash Facility in Great Smoky Mountains NP.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/8/2017

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Sections 4a and 4b, US 421 to TN 91

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch

Summary: We cut weeds from Double Springs Shelter to Low Gap US 421. We also removed six small blowdowns or large branches from this section and the section from Double Springs Shelter to TN 91. John cleaned and reshaped the 33 waterbar diversions starting at US 421. (He wouldn't drive all the way from Flag Pond to cut weeds.)

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/9/2017

Purpose: Clean hats and gloves

Location: At the house, for ASU work on Section 4b

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

Summary: We cleaned 110 hard hats and paired up gloves for storage. This should wrap up the August 18th event with ASU Watauga Residential Community.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 9/10/2017

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Sections 1 and 2, McQueens Gap to Damascus

People: Jim Chambers, Connie Squires, Mike "Lumpy" Price

Summary: It was a very long day cutting weeds and green briar from Abingdon Gap Shelter to the TN/VA state line. Lumpy provided the shuttle so we could work from McQueens Gap to Damascus.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/11/2017

Purpose: Obtain materials for shelters

Location: Lowe's for Stan Murray Shelter, Section 14c

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

Summary: We obtained most of the wood and hardware for Stan Murray Shelter repair. We still lack roofing. We also obtained a few materials for Iron Mountain Shelter.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 9/13/2017

Purpose: Cut weeds

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

People: Greg Kramer

Summary: Several blowdowns were found and made passable. I will get these and previous blowdowns soon.

Reporting: John Beaudet

Date: 9/13/2017

Purpose: Trim corridor

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

People: John Beaudet

Summary: I cut back rhododendrons for as long as I could stand it then went home. If anyone is seeing this, my computer skills have improved!

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 9/14/2017

Purpose: TEHCC A.T. Committee Meeting

Location: Eastman Recreation Center

People: Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler, Eric Middlemas, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Steve Perri, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, Steve Wilson

Summary: The TEHCC A.T. Committee met to discuss a range of issues and topics related to maintaining the trail. Here are a few key comments for the general club's awareness.

* A motion was made by Jim Chambers and passed to have TEHCC A.T. Committee fund up to \$65 of FA/CPR training for club sawyers if ATC reimbursement already used within past three years. Workflow is to submit receipt and copy of certification cards plus year ATC payment last obtained to A.T. Committee treasurer, then a check will be written to the club sawyer.

* TEHCC received a TN tag grant to buy a Stihl MS-362 chainsaw with a 25" bar. Committee members will contact dealers in TN to find best price for the order. The club has three sawyers who were officially trained on this equipment.

* Materials are now being purchased for the repair of the Stan Murray Shelter. A TN tag grant was also obtained to cover this expense. The project is expected to require two back-to-back days in October 2017.

* The committee discussed purchasing a used commercial mower (48" or wider deck) to cut along the handicap-accessible A.T. section 9-12 times per year. The second location being mowed is the Overmountain Shelter camping area to maintain the view. The committee will work with local dealers about locating a good used mower.

* The Elizabethton HS student team will begin developing a replacement design for the Cherry Gap Shelter. Four TEHCC A.T. Committee members, and hopefully USFS, will be meeting with the students to provide background on A.T. and shelters.

Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 9/14/2017

Purpose: Inspect and maintain trail section

Location: Section 9b, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail

People: Dean Baird

Summary: I removed trash, placed some more rocks at the log-cribbed area beside the creek, and inspected trail for blowdowns.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/15/2017

Purpose: Rehab trail

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

People: Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart

Summary: We finished polishing the relocation and rehab work we did with ASU Watauga Residential Community. There is still some rehab that can be done in this general area, but good progress has been made.

Reporting: John Beaudet

Date: 9/15/2017

Purpose: Trim corridor

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

People: John Beaudet

Summary: Again, I lopped rhododendrons for hours; then after a break when I should have gone on home, I rounded a corner and stepped on the biggest yellow jacket nest I ever stirred up. Those suckers got inside my pants and shirt and after running a hundred yards, yes I now know I can run on my new knee, I stopped, swatted, and took off my clothes to kill bees inside! More bees arrived to sting me more and I learned after I got home that yellow jackets release something when you kill them that actually brings more to their rescue! Since I somehow dropped my loppers right by the hive, I had to run in and grab them and run off again so a few more stings! I took my loppers and went home. I still have 1/2 mile or so to trim out next time. Any night hikers want to volunteer to kill my bees?

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 9/16/2017

Purpose: Maintain section

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Roan High Knob Shelter and back

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I painted blazes that were badly needed, both ways from Carvers Gap to the shelter and back. I also removed a half-dozen blowdowns and clipped briars and brush. I picked up trash near the shelter and along the way, but it looked pretty good. There was plenty of space in the shelter register. The top of a post set in concrete at Carvers Gap by the Cherokee NF, which held the Foot Travel Only and distance signs, was sawed off. It was sawed off low enough that it can no longer be used unless it's spliced.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 9/16/2017

Purpose: Clear debris

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap, south end of section

People: Craig Haire

Summary: This is part of the report just submitted, clearing branches and debris only from Greasy Creek Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 9/16/2017

Purpose: Clear debris

Location: Sections 16b and 16a, Iron Mountain Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

People: Craig Haire

Summary: From Iron Mountain Gap to Greasy Creek Gap, I removed branches and debris from the big winds we had recently. Most obstructions could be pulled off the trail, but a few places required handsaw cutting. I also cleared branches and debris from Greasy Creek Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 9/16/2017

Purpose: Paint Iron Mountain Shelter

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Lotta Murray, Ken Murray, Phyllis Cairnes, Rolla Wade, Scotty Bowman, Kim Peters

Summary: The focus of this "3rd Saturday - Hiking with Tools" trip was to paint Iron Mtn Shelter and cover up the every increasing amount of graffiti collecting on its walls, as well as to install a graffiti board which will hopefully reduce graffiti in the future. We carried 3 gallons of paint and the graffiti board, along with brushes, rollers and all the required tools the 4.3 miles to the shelter on

a beautiful morning, arriving just in time for lunch. After we fortified ourselves with food, we commenced cleaning and painting the shelter. This was accomplished in an amazingly short time thanks to so many willing helpers. On the hike back out, we cleared a few small blowdowns that were obstructing the trail and picked up trash left in the parking area. Many thanks to the hard working volunteers, especially Lotta Murray who created the graffiti boards and Ken Murray who carried in the awkward load and installed it in the shelter.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 9/16/2017

Purpose: Mow grass

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds at the camping areas at the shelter and along the trails around the shelter. We picked up a bag of trash and removed some limbs and rocks off the road to the Barn. We also picked up and removed rocks and limbs from the camping area.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 9/17/2017

Purpose: Scope out Mountaineer Falls Shelter for a graffiti board

Location: Section 12b, Mountaineer Falls Shelter

People: Ken Murray

Summary: Scoped out Mountaineer Falls Shelter for a graffiti board. This shelter is due to be painted next month.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 9/18/2017

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 3b, Spring to US 421

People: Greg Kramer

Summary: I removed 3 major blowdowns and 2 high step-over trunks, removed two last week. All blowdowns on Section 3 have been removed.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 9/19/2017

Purpose: Scout trail for blowdowns

Location: Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mountain Road

People: Kim Peters

Summary: A hiker reported blowdowns on this section a few days ago, so I scouted it to see if a crew with a chainsaw would be required. Lots of leaves and small branches in the trail were evidence that high winds were present. I removed two small blowdowns. One was a 6-inch poplar chest high in the trail and the other was a 10" dead hemlock which was an awkward step over. I also cleared several tops of trees that were partially obstructing the trail and threw countless limbs off the trail. This section badly needs lopping and the blazes need repainting, but there is nothing that requires a chainsaw.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/20/2017

Purpose: Purchase chainsaw

People: Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz

Summary: A recent Tennessee A.T. License Plate Grant provided us funding to purchase a larger chainsaw, as well as auxiliary chains and bars for some of our existing chainsaws. Jim investigated a number of dealers in East Tennessee, and East Tennessee Rentals provided the lowest price for a Stihl MS 362R chainsaw with a 25" bar. The grant has provided us with the capability to deal with larger blowdowns. With the dying hemlocks, we are expecting to have more needs for this larger saw.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/21/2017

Purpose: Relocate trail

Location: Section 1, Backbone Rock Trail

People: Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Bill Murdoch, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart

Summary: This last full day of summer was hot and we drank most all of our water. However, we completed the last relocation on Backbone Rock Trail. This is the sixth year we have worked on these relocations. Watauga College, Konnarock and the Thursday crew have worked on these. Backbone Rock trail is now about 2.7 miles; about 0.4 miles longer than it was. But it is much easier to hike. Yeah!



The September 21st Backbone Rock Trail Crew (minus photographer)

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/21/2017

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 4b, TN 91 to Double Springs Shelter, North of Osborne Farm

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples

Summary: This crew continued to rehab by removing the worst roots just north of Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/22/2017

Purpose: Stan Murray Shelter Rehab (Section 14c)

Location: At home

People: Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver

Summary: We obtained metal roofing and associated supplies for Stan Murray Shelter. I also cut special rafters, spacers for the sleeping platform, plywood for the sleeping platform, roof ridge and guttering.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 9/24/2017

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 1, A.T. and Backbone Rock Trail

People: Jim Chambers, Connie Squires

Summary: We cleared all recently reported blowdowns on the Backbone Rock Trail, and removed all blowdowns on the A.T. that were north and south of the A.T./Backbone Rock intersection.

Reporting: John Beaudet

Date: 9/25/2017

Purpose: Corridor brushing

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

People: John Beaudet

Summary: Once again, I lopped rhododendrons for as long as I could take it and then went home. I did complete the section from Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap Shelter and I learned that rhododendrons grow back faster than cut up knees! I also tried something new by making flagging material out of strips of Tyvek, writing "bees" on it, and tying it up in the area of a big yellow jacket nest. It worked well and is easy to read. The only hiker to test it out reported taking off fast when he saw it and he didn't get stung. I also made an entry in the shelter register noting the location of the bees, proving myself wrong when I said registers are useless and nothing good is written in them. Of course my page was likely used this evening to start a fire!

Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club
Fall Dinner Meeting
Friday, November 3rd, 2017

Reservation Form

Fill out the form below and send it with a check payable to **William Werner**.

Within Eastman send to:
William Werner, TN280 Floor 1-SOUTH Cubicle SC1015

Outside Eastman send to:
William Werner
944 Starling Dr
Kingsport TN 37660

There is no charge for those attending the program and NOT joining us for the meal.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Check and reservation form must be received by start of **Monday 10/30/2017**.

Names of all attending (*please print*)

Name(s):

Number of Meals: _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

Children age 13 and under _____ x \$ 6 = \$ _____

Number attending without meal reservation: _____