



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

June 2018

tehcc.org

Editor – [Terry Oldfield](#)

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Temporary Reroute of A.T. near Watauga Lake

Due to recent heavy rains, TVA has temporarily raised the Watauga Lake level, so that a couple of bridges on the Appalachian Trail are under water. The trail is temporarily rerouted on US 321 and Oliver Hollow Road. Signs are posted and route is blue blazed. Heading trail north on Shook Branch Road, cross US 321 and walk left or west along US 321 for about 1/4 mile and then go right along Oliver Hollow Rd. Follow the road for a third of a mile and take the short woods path to the right to the A.T.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Michael Warner

Andrew Whiting

Kenneth Sutherland

Tyler Ragan

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
June 1-3	Bluestone River Trip	Terry Dougherty	423-502-5177
June 2	Lower Watauga, Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
June 2-3	APE's Beginner Whitewater Kayak Course	Ryan Shealy	423-963-6066
June 8-10	Hootenanny Hang & Paddling Weekend	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
June 8-10	APE's Basic Swift Water Rescue Course	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
June 12	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253
June 14	Paddle to the Grill (first of the season)	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
June 16	3 rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-336-0128
June 16	Lower Watauga, Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
June 23	APEs Nolichucky River Cleanup	Trevor Lee	434-202-4171
June 30	Lower Watauga, Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
July 6-8	Hiwassee Paddle Weekend	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
July 7	Pigeon Gorge River Trip (Class II-III+)	Wesley R. Bradley	423-647-1321
July 10	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253
July 14	Lower Watauga, Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
July 19	Fun Fest Moonlight Hike	William Werner	423-229-2253
July 21	3 rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-336-0128
July 21	Ocoee River Trip (III/IV)	Steven Adams	423-650-1293
July 28	Lower Watauga, Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636

Details of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting - Usually every second Tuesday of the month, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Contact: [William Werner](#), 423-229-2253

Location: Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN; Bldg 280 Cafeteria

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-280 cafeteria. After going through the turnstiles at the main B-280 entrance, continue straight then right. Continue straight and turn left and through the hall by the vending machines. The cafeteria is directly ahead. 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 133.8-mile section each week, usually on Thursdays.

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

Contact: [Ryan Shealy](#), 423-963-6066

Interested in kayaking but don't know where to start? Basic kayak training and practice is available in Kingsport on Thursdays at the [Kingsport Aquatic Center](#)! 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 door closest to the indoor pool; then enter the main door to pay at the front desk. The pool does not provide paddling equipment, but if you are just starting out and do not have your own gear, please contact Ryan Shealy (423-963-6066). For additional event details, click [here](#).

3rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!

Contact: [Kim Peters](#), 423-366-0128

Hiking with Tools! is an opportunity to enjoy a day hike on our beautiful section of the A.T. while helping out with some routine maintenance such as cleaning out waterbars and steps, lopping rhododendron, breaking up fire rings, and painting blazes or shelters. All tools will be furnished and no prior experience required! We typically have four to five people on each trip. The more folks who show up, the less work each individual has to do... so the trip becomes a nice hike - with tools! Contact Kim Peters (atmaint@tehcc.org) for hike details, including meeting time and place.

Thursday Evenings from June 14 through the Summer: Paddle to the Grill, 7 pm – 10:30 pm

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

Each week we will be alternating between Boone Lake Marina, 452 Sportsman Dock Rd, Piney Flats, TN and Davis Marina (Boonies Restaurant), 641 Buffalo Rd, Blountville, TN. 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 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 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 the 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: <https://goo.gl/maps/HVXN7MAaDBw>

Scheduled Events

Bluestone River Trip, June 1-3, 2018, 39th Year

Leader: Terry Dougherty, 423-502-5177

We will stay at the beautiful Pipestem State Park (Mountain Creek Lodge). It's too late to make reservations at the lodge, but another option is to camp at the state park campground and/or drive up on Saturday morning. We plan to paddle the scenic Bluestone River both Saturday and Sunday. The first day is a Class III trip and the second day is Class I. You can skip the second day, if you like. This is a GREAT trip with a lot of family fun and the scenic river. In addition to paddling, Ed Montgomery will once again be in charge of HAPPY HOUR and libation coordination on Saturday night and is going to make this one special. Please contact the trip leader if you are planning to attend.

APE's Beginner Whitewater Kayak Course, June 2-3, 2018

Contact: [Ryan Shealy](#), 423-963-6066

If you've ever thought how much fun it would be to learn how to kayak, now's your chance!! The Beginner Whitewater Kayak Course, sponsored by the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club, will be held May 19th and 20th in the Tri-Cities area. The clinic is designed for anyone wanting to learn the fundamentals of whitewater kayaking that will ensure a fun and safe time on the river. No previous experience is necessary. Instruction will consist of one day on flat water and one day on the river. As in the past, there will continue to be a strong emphasis on safety. Participants will be responsible for providing their own gear and transportation, although loaner gear is available on a first come basis.

Minimum required gear: Whitewater kayak, double-bladed (kayak) paddle, whitewater helmet, spray skirt, PFD (life jacket), closed-toe water shoes or booties (sneakers are fine too but they'll get wet). Additionally, it is recommended that each student bring a wicking type shirt (no cotton) for wear while on the water, sunscreen and a rain jacket. Students are responsible for bringing their own lunch and drinking water/sports drinks.

Schedule

June 2 (Saturday): Lake instruction at Warrior's Path State Park, 8 am-4 pm. Students must participate on Saturday to participate on Sunday.

June 3 (Sunday): River Trip on the Lower Nolichuck River, class II, 8 am-4 pm. Note: Instructors reserve the right to exclude anyone if they believe safety will be compromised.

Cost: \$75.00 per student (which includes a \$5 ACA event membership fee and a \$10 APEs membership fee). If you are already a member of either organization, deduct that portion of the cost.

Registration: Online at <http://www.riverapes.org/registration.html>, or by mail: [Click here](#) to download the PDF Registration Form and mail in with payment made out to APEs to Ryan Shealy: 215 Hawk Street, Blountville, TN 37617 by 5/12/2018.

For course description and additional registration information go to: <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/2018/03/07/apes-tehcc-beginner-whitewater-kayak-course/>

Hootenanny Camp/Paddle Weekend, June 8-10, 2018

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

The Hootenanny Hang weekend will be in Unicoi, Roan Mountain area, 20 minutes from the Nolichucky River and Watauga Lake. It was planned for just local folks, but the property owners got excited about the idea of us renting the whole place, so we are inviting everyone from the hammock camping group I belong to and the APEs. There are people coming to this event from all over the country to paddle/hike and hang out for an adventure camping weekend.

Now a Hootenanny means a "Music Happening!" So there will be picking on the porch, open to anyone with an instrument. On Saturday night, we'll have a pot luck dinner and a raffle of hammock camping gear to help pay for the use of the campground. Any money left over will go toward the deposit for next year or be donated to the farm for any needed projects. There are 98 acres of wooded property at Blackberry Blossom Farm with walk-in-only campsites. Backpackers will be right at home; but if you have heavy gear, they will gladly haul it to your site with their tractor and small trailer. The sites have fire pits, picnic tables, and water from an ingenious spring, gravity-fed system that is potable to normal standards. There are two bathrooms with showers and a large outside sink for clean-up near the camp store.

Activities: We are planning paddle trips and hikes for Saturday morning. You can choose between two kinds of kayaking, whitewater (Nolichucky Gorge Class III-IV or Lower Nolichucky River Class I-II) or lake (Watauga Lake with a picnic on the island). There will be hiking trips also. Hike Roan Mountain to the balds from Carvers Gap or drive up to the Rhododendron Gardens. The pot luck on Saturday night will be after the activities at the camp store where there is a communal fire-pit for dutch oven cooking etc. Tickets to

the gear raffle will be sold and paid for Saturday night at the event. Bring cash to buy your tickets: \$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20. I am gathering raffle donations from hammock camping vendors, but your donations are accepted too. Any spare gear you have will help; it doesn't have to be a lot, just something camping related someone can use.

Camping Cost: We have a flat-rate agreement for the cost of the campground. I am asking each person who attends to please give a donation or buy raffle tickets. Between your donation and the raffle, it should cover our costs of the venue and other expenditures like firewood, deposit for next year, etc.

Address: 250 Blackberry Blossom Ln, Unicoi, TN 37692, (423) 735-0696

Website: <http://www.blackberry-blossom-campground.com/Home/home.php>

Map: <https://www.google.com/maps/dir//36.202754,-82.257857/@36.203074,-82.257572,10z?hl=en>

APes and TEHCC Basic Swift Water Rescue Course, June 8, 7 pm – June 10, 5 pm, 2018

Contact: [Scott Fisher](mailto:Scott.Fisher@riverparkcampground.com), 276-698-4644

Location: Riverpark Campground, Jonesborough, TN

ACA Instructor: Scott Fisher

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 8, 7:00pm – 9:00pm; Saturday, June 9, 8:00am – 7:00pm (Saturday Evening Session TBD); Sunday, June 10, 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 6/1/2018.**

Logging 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>.
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.

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

APEs Nolichucky River Cleanup, Saturday, June 23, 2018, 11 am

Contact: [Trevor Lee](#), 434-202-4171

Registration starts at 11:00 am at USA Raft Nolichucky, 2 Jones Branch Rd, Erwin. Participants will be assigned to Clean Teams, provided maps of clean-up locations, and given trash bags and gloves. There are plenty of clean-up opportunities of key areas for non-boaters as well as areas designated for individuals with their own boats or rafts.

There will be free food and prizes for cleanup participants after the clean-up. Hickory Smoked Bar-B-Q and the fixins will be served-up by the APEs in the Pavilion while you enjoy some fun fellowship. During the Post Cleanup Celebration we will be drawing tickets for fantastic prizes. Prizes are being supplied by the following generous sponsors: Astral, Jackson Kayak, Shred Ready and others.

Check out complete event details at <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/2018/03/07/nolichucky-river-cleanup-and-celebration/>.

Hiwassee Paddle Weekend, July 6-8, 2018

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, we'll 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!! On Sunday, we'll either paddle another run or drive home, it's up to you! Campground: <http://www.stateparks.com/hiwassee.html>

Pigeon Gorge River Trip (Class II-III+), July 7, 2018, 11:30 am – 3 pm

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

Wesley R. Bradley is going to lead a river trip on the Pigeon Gorge (Class II-III+) from the NOC Pigeon Outpost (3485 Hartford Rd, Hartford, TN). First timers are welcome on the run. We can do some play boating along the way and then maybe throwdown in the hole at NOC when we get done with the run.

FunFest Moonlight Hike, Bays Mountain Park, Thursday, July 19, 2018

Contact: TBD

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. However, TEHCC volunteers helping with the event are not 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 hikers per the official counter.) More details to come in July newsletter.

For the Record

A.T.: Spivey Gap to High Rocks Overlook, Sunday, May 20, 2018

Vic Hasler Reporting

A summer-like afternoon was experienced with heat and humidity, but at times a cool breeze – likely from a nearby storm. A group of 12 hikers from MAHC and TEHCC joined together to walk the rising trail which has been significantly improved by spreading a portion of the climb across some wide switchbacks. A variety of spring wildflowers were also enjoyed along the A.T. The view from High Rocks was of a lush green forest in two directions. The group promptly returned to the vehicles, and then we were back in Kingsport within five hours after leaving. Hiking from TEHCC were Steve Ankabrandt and Vic Hasler.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 4/9/2018

Purpose: TEHCC A.T. Committee

Location: Eastman Recreation Center

People: Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Steve Falling, Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, Steve Wilson

Summary: Belated notes from the April discussion are a one-month follow-up:

- * Post-meeting learning: USFS Atlanta office is developing a southern regional Volunteer Service Agreement template. We'll need to discuss additional requirements for check-in/check-out and emergency plan for maintenance trips.
- * An alternative proposal of replacing Overmountain Shelter with camping platforms and maybe a covered cooking space needs to be created for discussion with Appalachian Ranger District before Fall Partnership.
- * Ranger Keith Kelley has not yet arranged a field meeting with TDOT regarding US 321 crossing.
- * As reported in another maintenance trip report, the Roan Mountain Hard Core was successful with 31 participants completing trail rehab/improvement north of Walnut Mountain Road.
- * TEHCC sawyers are now current with their training, which is great!
- * Firth and Peters to create a GIS map of trail access points to guide future project development.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 4/19/2018

Purpose: Rehab treadway

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

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I leveled out the trail in two locations, and removed some roots and widened the trail in one location. I also secured a blockage to shortcuts that I'd put in earlier. Two thru-hikers came by as I was working.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 4/28 and 4/29/2018

Purpose: Chainsaw recertification

Location: Sugar Grove, VA, Forest Service Center

People: Richard Carter

Summary: It was a very thorough and instructive weekend with beautiful weather for recertification.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 4/28 and /2018

Purpose: Chainsaw recertification

Location: Sugar Grove, VA, Forest Service Center

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: It was a nice spring day in the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area for chainsaw recertification. Thanks goes to the Mt. Rogers NRA staff for conducting the training, and to the ATC Virginia Office for allowing TEHCC volunteers to participate.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/30/2018

Purpose: Prepare for Hard Core

Location: Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mountain Road, Halfway point near Laurel Vista

People: Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: We continued preparation for rehab of trail with Hard Core. We finished getting most of the side logs, stakes and some of the steps near their future location. Paul finished his log bench at Laurel Vista.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 4/30/2018

Purpose: Section Maintenance

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

People: Dan Firth, David Hrivnak

Summary: We cleared several stepover blowdowns and cut back vegetation. Several thru-hikers at the shelter commented on the lack of graffiti and how well the graffiti boards are working.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 5/2/2018

Purpose: Meeting with Regional Consultant

Location: Kingsport, TN

People: Tim Schaeffer, Steve Perri, CeeGee McCord, Joe Babeic

Summary: Comprehensive Regional Economic Development Strategy Discussion

Tim and I were asked to meet with CeeGee McCord and an external consultant to discuss TEHCC activities and regional roles as they may support regional tourism and economic development. We provided the consultant with a list of club facts and figures and discussed the roles and activities the club engages in the region to provide education, training, outreach and volunteer support. Eastman and several other large employers from the area have been working to pull together a comprehensive regional economic development strategy and one of the main areas identified is tourism development – especially with the abundance of natural resources/assets of the NE TN/WNC/SW VA area. We shared our club history, and current engagement roles with partnerships including ATC, USFS and other outdoor organizations. We shared aspects of the club website and resources available to the public. We also discussed the recent acquisition of the Rocky Fork tract, the partnerships that were involved to make that happen, and plans to develop a state park and campground there. We mentioned the new model of partnerships of the A.T. Communities that has been underway, with the Damascus Visitors Center as an example. We gave the consultant Kayla Carter's contact info for follow up on other regional development that is taking place.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 5/2/2018

Purpose: Hard Core Prep

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

People: Jim Chambers, Bob Peoples, Joe Morris

Summary: We performed final preparation for the Roan Mountain Hard Core. We hauled in logs to be used as steps for section 1, debarked all remaining logs, carried in extra side logs for section 2, and performed a final walk-thru for this Saturday.

Reporting: Eric Middlemas

Date: 5/3/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS230 switchback Low Gap to Pi

People: Eric Middlemas, Rich Ritter, Joseph Gervais, Jim Booth

Summary: We removed about 6 blowdowns from Low Gap to about 1.5 miles north of Cherry Gap Shelter where a large blowdown was reportedly blocking the trail. As it turned out, this blowdown was simply lying beside the trail instead of obstructing it. We removed the most intrusive part of the blowdown, but we left a section of the tree as hefty trail-cribbing and a sitting log for tired hikers.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 5/3/2018

Purpose: Replace graffiti board and patrol for blowdowns

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

People: Ken Murray, Lotta Murray, Robert Christianson

Summary: The Trail is in good shape from Spivey Gap to NBK shelter. A large blowdown between the shelter and Temple Hill Gap has been reported that we haven't gotten to yet.

Reporting: Richard S Carter

Date: 5/3/2018

Purpose: General Maintenance

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

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I checked the shelter, left a new shelter register (the old one was missing) and recoated the graffiti board with a couple of coats of Kilz. I checked the spring, which is running very well, removed trash from the shelter area, cut a couple 4-5 inch blowdown, and repainted the blazes between the shelter and Grassy Ridge Trail junction.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 5/4/2018

Purpose: Mow grass

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds in the camping area and along trails as needed. We also removed rocks from the camping area, and stacked fire wood and removed it from the camping area.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 5/5/2018

Purpose: Roan Mountain Hard Core

Location: Section 12a, 1.5 miles north of Walnut Mountain Road

People: Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Jim Chambers, Connie Squires, Paul Benfield, Ted Mowry, Tim Stewart, Ed Oliver, Jennifer Berry, Rio Berry, Pat Loven, Karen Loven, Phil Abruzzese, Kendall Abruzzese, Grady Abruzzese, Joe Morris, Robin Dean, Jessica McClelland, Alex O'Neil, Aaron Brown, Dan Maloy, Alex Smith, Charles Donnison, Joseph Holmes, Jacob Holmes, Carol Ann Mitchell, Linda Choate, Evan Scribner, Kathy Case, Elliot Pacheco, Ben Trotter

Summary: A total of 31 participants from ATC, ALDHA, TEHCC, Roan Mountain, and current year hikers conducted 340 feet of side-hill rehab. This event included 300 feet of side log cribbing, construction of 10 steps, and hand excavation of several cubic yards of back fill. The Hard Core work site was re-blazed to reflect new trail construction. A comprehensive After-Action Report will be forwarded to ATC, ALDHA, TEHCC, and all Appalachian Trail Communities.

Reporting: Rick Lott

Date: 5/6/2018

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 3a, About 1/2 mile trail south from McQueen's Gap

People: Rick Lott, Jim Brooks, Ed Brooks

Summary: We hiked in about 1/2 mile trail south of McQueen's Gap and cut about a 22" tree lying across the trail with a root ball at the edge of the trail. A previous cut had been made about 10' south of the trail. We cleared another tree off the trail within sight of the first one. This one was approximately 18" and quite rotten. We then headed back about 300 yds and cut a 9" leaner that was about at head level on the trail. We cleared waterbars on the way out and picked up several bags of trash at McQueen's Gap. A couple from Shady Valley that we ran into at the trailhead said they had just seen five bears, i.e., two moms and three cubs.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 5/7/2018

Purpose: Conduct ash tree survey

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Grindstaff Monument

People: Dan Firth, Matt Drury (ATC)

Summary: In hopeful anticipation of being able to treat some of the ash trees along the A.T. in Tennessee, plots of ash were evaluated to determine logistics. In addition, several blowdowns were cleared. However, two stepover blowdowns that were larger than the small handsaw available remain north of the monument.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 5/9/2018

Purpose: Acquire locust logs

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap - Cloudland Hotel, Birdhouse Cabin

People: Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Saylor Fox, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Will Spear "Sprocket"

Summary: Grassy Ridge was beautiful with wild flowers in abundance and trees just starting to open buds. Richard spent the day bucking logs and stakes. Everyone else toted logs and/or debarked as many logs as we could. Hiker, "Sprocket," asked if we worked this hard every day. We loaded up five trucks with as much weight as they could support and transported them to storage near Carver's Gap.

Reporting: Eric Middlemas

Date: 5/9/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 17, FS 230 Switchback to Low Gap

People: Eric Middlemas, Pat Kenney, Judy Middlemas

Summary: On this beautiful, clear day we removed about 13 blowdowns between FS 230 switchback and Low Gap. Several were blocking the trail and creating treadway diversions. The trail from Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mtn Gap is in excellent shape and should be clear of blowdowns.

Reporting: Eric Middlemas

Date: 5/9/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 18, Beauty Spot to FS 230 Switchback

People: Eric Middlemas, Pat Kenney, Judy Middlemas

Summary: We removed about 6 smallish blowdowns between Beauty Spot and the FS 230 switchback on the south side of Unaka Mtn. We also cut back intrusive vegation. I'm still impressed with the Silky Katanaboy saw!

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 5/10/2018

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 2b, Trail north of McQueens Gap

People: Ted Malone, Steve Wilson

Summary: We cleared one blowdown and three hazard trees with a chainsaw on the trail section north from McQueens gap to Abingdon Gap Shelter.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 5/11/2018

Purpose: Check relocations

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

People: Carl Fritz, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, ATC: Ben Barry, USFS: Reuben Potter, Dennis Trentham

Summary: We removed some minor blowdowns, but we mostly enjoyed the wildflowers while we were checking the six relocations nearer Greasy Creek Gap. Since the trail is not eroding badly and walks along the top of the ridge are so beautiful, we proposed to rehab some of the steeper sections with water diversions and platform steps. We thus would abandon the relocations.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 5/14/2018

Purpose: Mow Osborne Farm

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds along the A.T. and Accessible Trail across the Osborne Farm. We almost went too long, as the grass was knee high. We had to go over it 3 times to get it mowed. The trail needs to be sprayed after the hikers get through. There were about 30 hikers passing by while we were there. We saw no other needs to be dozed while Matt has the Dozer. We'll bring some white paint and a brush on the next work trip. The cattle have returned.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 5/14/2018

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 16b, Iron Mtn Gap to Apple Orchard

People: Joe Morris, Robin Dean

Summary: It was Robin's birthday, so I asked her what she wanted. She didn't answer; so I gave her a paintbrush and a string trimmer, and we went on a wildflower walk. We mowed grass and weeds to the orchard, refreshed blazes, and destroyed a fire ring. The water source at the orchard is flowing nicely. The wildflowers are amazing right now. We saw several hikers on this perfect day in the woods.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 5/15/2018

Purpose: Clear reported blowdown

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Bradley Gap

People: Lynn DiFiore, Robert Lamb

Summary: Based on a report of a chest-high tree down between Little Hump and Bradley Gap, we braved hazardous thunderstorms to remove the obstacle. Alas, we found no blowdowns; nor did we find evidence of a recent blowdown. However, it was a fine day for wildflowers and chainsaw carrying practice. We removed numerous fire rings and picked up a nominal amount of trash. Not surprisingly, we saw few hikers. The springs are running well.

Reporting: Pat Loven

Date: 5/17/2018

Purpose: Hard Core follow-up

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

People: Pat Loven

Summary: I inspected and cleaned hard hats used in the May 5th Roan Mountain Hard Core event.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 5/19/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to No Business Knob Shelter

People: Ken Murray, Carl Fritz

Summary: We removed one large and several small blowdowns.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 5/22/2018

Purpose: Mow grass

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the grass around the shelter and cut weeds along the trails and in the camping area as needed. We removed one bag of trash, removed rocks from the camping area, and cleaned the fire ring.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 5/23/2018

Purpose: Check Trail

Location: Section 10, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail to Dennis Cove

People: Amy Sternheim, Jeff Dunstan

Summary: Amy and Jeff, while staying at Kincora Hostel, checked the A.T. in Laurel Fork Gorge for minor blowdowns and lopping. They removed trash from the shelter. Otherwise, shelter and trail are in good shape.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 5/23/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdown

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

People: Ken Murray, Lotta Murray

Summary: We got a report of a really bad blowdown south of NBK Shelter. The report turned out to be accurate as hikers were forced to scramble up the bank and around an unstable fallen oak tree. We were able to cut vegetation and open up a path through the tree although there is still a need for a chain saw to finish cutting up the tree and getting it off the trail. I claim the current record for cutting logs with a Silky Saw (14 inches); although it did help that the log was hollow.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 5/24/2018

Purpose: Rehab trail and brush

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

People: Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart; Hikers: Amy Sternheim, Michael Bruce, Jeff Dunstan, Michael Sweeton

Summary: Kim and Amy finished cutting back rhododendron. Mostly, we continued trail rehab by making locust sidelogs and back filling to cover roots and sloughing sections. We have at least one more day of work on this section. We were privileged to have four hikers and two who had worked with us in Damascus Hardcore.

