



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

August 2018

tehcc.org

Editor – [Terry Oldfield](#)

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Turk's Cap Lily

Photo by Travis Bordley

Kim Peters - August 2018 ATC Volunteer of the Month

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Steve Perri, and others

Kim has been an active TEHCC member for more than 18 years, and over time, has taken on more responsibility by providing trail maintenance leadership. In 2010, she began serving as TEHCC Maintenance Coordinator – engaging many different volunteers, from new members to retirees, in various maintenance activities. TEHCC typically has more than 13,000 hours invested in the Appalachian Trail each year, by roughly 450 different volunteers, across regular outings and special events. Therefore, the role of volunteer coordinator is critical to our club's success.

A search of club newsletters reveals that Kim started out hiking with TEHCC on April 1, 2000 with a trip to the Sand Cave/White Rocks in Ewing, VA. Since then, her retirement has enabled her to spend more time in the outdoors through both hikes (TEHCC Hiker of the Year in 2001 and 2007) and trail maintenance. Kim has hiked the Appalachian Trail from Springer Mountain to Harper's Ferry. Over the years, she has logged personal maintenance time of nearly 5,000 hours over 600 events. Currently, Kim invests around 450 hours (~56 days!) each year; thus is the third most active TEHCC maintainer.

As Maintenance Coordinator, Kim recruits volunteers for our 36 trail sections and 15 shelters over 134 miles of the Appalachian Trail. She hosts a large winter meeting to kick off each new maintenance season with recognition, safety, and training. Inquiries from potential volunteers are matched with the weekly trail project crew, section groups, or a regular monthly outing. In 2012, Kim rebranded the third-Saturday events to "Hiking with Tools" to reach out to those who are new to maintenance, have a weekday job, or desire lighter tasks such as cleaning out waterbars, lopping rhododendron, breaking up fire rings, or painting blazes/shelters. This latter effort has been very successful in recruiting new maintainers of the Appalachian Trail.

The Tennessee Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club sincerely thanks Kim for her service and leadership over the years. And congratulate her on being further recognized as ATC's Volunteer of the Month ([link](#)) for August 2018! Please contact Kim (atmaint@tehcc.org) if you're interested in helping with the Appalachian Trail.



A.T. Plate Revenue Exceeds \$2 Million in Southern Region

Article by Vic Hasler



For Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee, revenue from the sale of Appalachian Trail (A.T.) specialty license plates has recently exceeded the **\$2 million** milestone. Pennsylvania and Virginia have newer A.T. license plate programs, but their cumulative revenue is not yet known by this author. The [A.T. License Plate Program](#) was established in 2005 to help the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in its work to sustain the Trail into the future. Overall, the initiative has been a resounding success.

In recent years, TEHCC has obtained grants from these tag programs for bridge construction, shelter painting, gravel to harden sections of the A.T., and special maintenance events. For Tennessee, the cumulative amount raised has been roughly \$396,000 - \$15.62 from each tag sold or renewed. Currently, an estimated 4,665 A.T. specialty plates are active on Tennessee roadways (with 6,000 and 6,200 in GA / NC). For the past year and a half, popularity of these TN tags has been strong at 15-20% year-over-year growth. ***Consider getting one when you renew your license plate...***

TEHCC Welcomes Many New Members

Griffin Fiedler	Tyler Irons	Katelyn Luthi	Mark Muhlenberg
Ryan Schroer	Katey Hawkins	David Wright	Seyedeh Hanieh Niroomand
Alex Bruzzo	Alexandra Chagnon	Garrett Bernard	William Reed
Marissa Schaefer	Kyle McGinley	George Brumbaugh	Christopher Hawkins
Brandon Weirick	Daria Foster	Chantel Roberts	Allison Fiorini
Emilija Cuculovska	Sergio Prudencio Csapek	Andrew Sampson	Kevin Fiorini
Marissa Voight	Raymond Black	James MacDougall	Scott Gong
James Uraski Jr	Logan Vermillion	John Cieslukowski	Allison Brophy
Mason Nolen	Grace Ferguson	David Pearce	Kenneth Henry

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 4	"Babes on the Waves" Pigeon River Run	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
August 11	Lower Watauga, Class I-II, and Campout, 3 pm	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
August 14	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253
August 18	3 rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-336-0128
August 18	APEs Nolichucky Gorge 1 st Timers' River Trip	Wesley R. Bradley	423-647-1321
August 21	Wright State U Work Trip, Rehab North of Hump Mtn	Jim Chambers	423-440-2518
August 25	Huckleberry Picking in Grayson Highlands S.P.	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
August 25	Lower Watauga, Class I-II, 3 pm	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
September 8	Lower Watauga, Class I-II, 3 pm	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
September 11	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253
September 14-16	Lake Jocassee Paddle Camp Weekend	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
September 15	3 rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-336-0128

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 August: 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

"Babes on the Waves" Pigeon River Run, Saturday, August 4, 2018

Contact: [Debbie Briscoe](mailto:Debbie.Briscoe@tehcc.org), 423-534-3636

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! Meet at the NOC, 3485 Hartford Rd, Hartford, TN. The Upper Trip (Class II-III), meeting at 11:30, is led by Jennifer Bradley and Jo Pasqua. The Lower Trip (Class I-II), meeting at 3:00, is led by Debbie Briscoe. After we're off the river, we can all go out to eat. Once a year, all the female APEettes come together to rule the river. All are welcome, even you guys 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.

Lower Watauga (Class I-II) and Perseids Meteor Shower Campout, Saturday, August 11, 2018, 3 pm

Contact: [Debbie Briscoe](mailto:Debbie.Briscoe@tehcc.org), 423-534-3636

This will be our regularly scheduled biweekly river run, but afterwards we're going to camp-out at Blackberry Blossom Farm, 250 Blackberry Blossom Ln, Unicoi, and watch the meteor shower! So come prepared!

3rd Saturday - Hiking with Tools, Saturday August 18, 2018

Contact: [Kim Peters](mailto:Kim.Peters@tehcc.org), atmaint@tehcc.org, 423-366-0128

It is time to paint another shelter! In our continuing effort to cover up the graffiti collecting on shelters, and spruce them up a bit, we will venture out to No Business Knob Shelter to paint the interior walls. This will be the 8th shelter that the 3rd Saturday group has painted.

We will access the trail at Devils Creek Gap and hike 2.7 miles to the shelter. All materials and tools will be provided by the club. Volunteers should bring food and water for the day and wear sturdy walking shoes and clothes they don't mind getting paint on. We will meet in front of the Parkway Discount Wine and Liquor Store in South Johnson City at 8:30 am to carpool to the trailhead. Other meeting places can be arranged if you let me know ahead of time. We should be back at our meeting place by 4 or 5 pm. Let Kim know if you want to participate and where you would like to meet by Wednesday, August 15.

APE's Nolichucky Gorge 1st Timers' River Trip and Picnic, August 18, 2018, 11 am – 7 pm

Contact: [Wesley R. Bradley](mailto:Wesley.R.Bradley@tehcc.org), 423-647-1321

This is our local crown jewel river trip of the year! Roll call for this event will start two weeks prior to the trip. We will meet at USA Raft Nolichucky, 2 Jones Branch Rd, Erwin. Check the event website for all the details:

<http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/2018/01/01/apes-nolichucky-gorge-1st-timers-river-trip-picnic/>

Noli Gorge Trip (Class III/IV) at 11:00 A.M.

Lower Noli Trip (Class I-II) at 12:00 Noon.

Barberitos-Catered Picnic at 6:00 P.M.

To sign-up for this event, please send the following information for each person attending:

1. Full name
2. River running section (Gorge or Lower)
3. Are you a first timer on the run?
4. Are you eating a picnic meal?

Please e-mail, text or message Wesley R. Bradley with your **RSVP by 8/16/2018**.

Wright State University Work Trip – Rehab North of Hump Mtn, Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Coordinator: [Jim Chambers](mailto:Jim.Chambers@wrightstate.edu), 423-440-2518

One of the freshmen orientation options at Wright State University (near Dayton, OH) for several years has been backpacking in the Roan Highlands. During this experience, crews have participated in a trail maintenance project. This year locust logs will be installed along a trail section to stabilize the treadway and control erosion. Southern Appalachian Work Center (SAWC) will coordinate the event with the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club (TEHCC). The work site on the Appalachian Trail will be accessed from Doll Flats. Please contact the coordinator to arrange transportation, as a limited number of four-wheel drive vehicles will take the steep forest roadway. Trail work will begin at 9 am. All required tools will be provided, with some snacks and water available. Please dress appropriately with work gloves and bring your own lunch.

After the work trip, all participants are invited to an open house and celebration dinner starting 5pm at the SAWC facility in Elizabethton, TN.

Huckleberry Picking in [Grayson Highlands State Park](#), Saturday, August 25, 2018

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

Rating: 2-3 miles on a couple of trails with limited elevation change

It's been nine years since I've last enjoyed Grayson Highlands State Park, so I'd like to go back for the excellent views from the Twin Pinnacles – and pick some huckleberries. The loop trail behind the visitors' center is only a mile and a half. We'll go out across the two peaks, pick berries along the way, have lunch, and return via a walk through the forest with ferns.



Then we have a group choice. Option A would be to go up the Rhododendron Trail to see if any of the ponies are around. Option B would be another loop hike on Listening Rock Trail, as I have not yet explored this path over to Buzzard Rock.

Let's leave Colonial Heights at 8 am for the couple-hour drive to Grayson Highlands SP. Entrance fee is now \$7/car for TN tags. Bring lunch, water, bag to collect berries (if you're not eating them first), plus hat/sunscreen. Dogs on leash are allowed on this trip. We'll plan to head back around 2:30 pm to return by 4:30 pm. For further information and to help plan carpooling, please call or e-mail the hike leader.

Lake Jocassee Paddle Camp Weekend, Devil's Fork State Park, September 14-16, 2018

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

The most crystal clear water you will ever see this close to home with waterfalls, waterfalls waterfalls! We made two trips there last spring and are excited to offer this trip again this year!

On Friday, September 14, meet at Devil's Fork State Park (161 Holcombe Cir, Salem, SC) at 11:00 am to pack boats, and paddle one mile across the lake to the secluded boat-in-only campsites. There are fire rings, lantern stands and pit toilets. Saturday we will be paddling to waterfalls and will have a picnic lunch on the way! We can stop for ice cream at the State Park on the way back; if desired, a shower is available there too. Sunday, after breakfast and packing up, we will paddle to one more waterfall and then back to the car at the State Park. This is a self supported trip; all gear must be packed in your boat and you must bring all your food and water. A group meal can be planned if desired.

For the Record

Pigeon Gorge River Trip, July 7, 2018

Wesley R. Bradley Reporting

We had a good crew of seven paddlers joining up for this river trip; that included Steve Moore, Jerry Griffin, Ryan Horn, Jay Cross, Parker Cross, Brandon Irish, and Wesley Bradley. The trip quickly became a great reunion of old friends with several of us not having seen each other in a long time. New friendships were also made along the way, making for a sweet vibe during the day. It was great to have Steve Moore back on the river after a long hiatus from paddling; and he did not look like he'd missed a day, playing all the features on the way down the run. Parker (awesome little shredder), Jay, and Brandon all got their styling first descents of the run. Kristie Cross made the shuttle easy, being our shuttle bunny in Jerry's Van! Jerry decided to have an action packed out-of-boat experience below Double Reactionary and down through Accelerator. Big thanks to Ryan as a great safety support boater during the run. Ryan was quick to help in the rescue and all was well. Good times were had by all and we had three first-timers stoked on learning a new run!



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/28/2018

Purpose: Cut weeds

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

People: Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Bill Murdoch, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart

Summary: We cut weeds and then cut more weeds. The weeds closest to the shelter remain and the waterbars could be cleaned.



Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/28/2018

Purpose: Repair bridges

Location: Section 10, Laurel Fork Bridges

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery

Summary: We completed the replacement of the decaying landscape timbers on the two lower bridges. The water level in Laurel Fork was high and swift. Fortunately, we only dropped one tool and it was in the first five minutes. All day, section hikers thanked us for our efforts. Of course we had an obstacle course set up on the bridge, so they could not get by rapidly.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 6/28/2018

Purpose: Clean waterbars and cut blowdowns

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

People: Bruce Darby, John Beaudet, Jim Foster

Summary: John, Bruce and I cleaned waterbars and cut blowdowns on a foggy cool day. The trail is very wet but holding up okay. The blue blazes were refreshed to the shelter and water sources.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 6/29/2018

Purpose: Mow grass

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the camping area and trimmed weeds along the trails as needed. The floor on the privy is in serious need of replacing or repair. Two of the short boards are loose at the seat and falling into the pit. We met the ridgerunner and found lots of water in all the springs.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 6/29/2018

Purpose: Mow grass

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the A.T. and the Accessible trail across the Osborne Farm. A board has been removed from the stile going into the pasture. I don't think the cattle are able to get through the opening. Everything looks good.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 6/29/2018

Purpose: Whack weeds

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

People: Kevin Sedgwick

Summary: Like the movie "Ground Hog Day," if it's Friday, it must be weed-whack day. I was surprised how thick the "hay" is. With all the rain and the ATC removing small trees in Bishop Hollow allowing more sun, it's thick. Two northbound thru-hikers on day 16 were moving fast. Eight other hikers were out for a few days.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 7/2/2018

Purpose: Whack weeds

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

People: Kevin Sedgwick

Summary: Whack, whack, weed-whack, whack some more. Finished up today. Never has it been so bad. The poison ivy is heavy in spots. I also handcut a few minor blowdowns. There are some major ones to deal with later. I saw only one hiker, a flip-flopper.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 7/2/2018

Purpose: Weed

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

People: Michael Watts

Summary: I trimmed weeds from McQueen's Gap to the spring.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/2/2018

Purpose: Inspect Trail for rehab

Location: Section 17, Low Gap to Unaka Mountain

People: Carl Fritz

Summary: Last year we rehabbed from Iron Mountain Gap to south of Low Gap. This was an inspection from Low Gap to Unaka Mountain. Also, I confirmed an access. There may be one more day of work closer to Low Gap. The trail is in good shape and Old Timers are keeping it that way. The long relocation is mostly through rhodos, which require a lot of brushing. I removed a couple of minor blowdowns and could not resist setting a couple of rock steps and rebuilding a water diversion. I saw no hikers all day. The Forest Service was regrading the road and needed a set of pliers and duct tape (which all maintainers should carry).

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/5/2018

Purpose: Cut weeds, clean waterbars, repair waterbars

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

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart

Summary: Tim and Ken finished cutting weeds on this section. Kim diligently cleaned waterbars. Paul, Ted and Bob cleaned waterbars plus rebuilt some waterbars. Joe, Bill and Carl rebuilt some waterbars. About nine waterbars were rebuilt with rocks or locusts. A lot of bear scat was seen along the trail and we think a bear about 25 feet from us made a quick escape. We saw only about three hikers. A vehicle larger than a UTV had driven about 3/4 mile in from US 421. The large rock waterbars installed close to the road should discourage that. Also, we installed a "hiking only" sign.



Large rock waterbar will deter vehicle access.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 7/7/2018

Purpose: Whack weeds, maintain shelter

Location: Section 11b, Moreland Gap Shelter to Canute Place

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: I went in via the dirt road and shelter access trail. Several hikers were at the shelter and had stayed the night. They mentioned some dripping from roof but that it did not hit the sleeping platform. There were some pinholes that might be repaired with some rubberized spray.

I hiked to the Canute Place where I used a string trimmer to cut the long grass. I also cleared the water source blue-blaze trail. The water source was flowing nicely. On the hike back to the shelter I continued to use the string trimmer as needed. The string trimmer worked well at the Canute Place, but was cumbersome to carry and did not allow for active use of loppers on rhodos. I might go back to using a swing blade in the future, which I can carry on my pack while using loppers.

I encountered two blowdowns. The first one was about 10 minutes north of the shelter and will likely require a chainsaw. The other one is about 25 minutes north of the shelter and can probably be cleared with a handsaw. Neither are urgent as they are fairly easy to get around or under. Back at the shelter, I picked up some trash, cleaned the fire ring and painted the graffiti board. The broom, shovel and rake are still present. I also placed a new shelter register. It was a good day. It threatened to rain, so that kept the temperature tolerable.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield

Date: 7/7/2018

Purpose: Maintain shelter

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

People: John Frey, Terry Oldfield

Summary: On the way to Double Springs Shelter from TN 91, we clipped a few weeds that were encroaching on the trail, and cut and cleared one very small blowdown. We noted one small step-over, but otherwise the trail is clear. At the shelter, we picked up trash, dismantled a fire ring (under the shelter overhang), cleaned out the other fire ring, and left a new log book. We also painted the graffiti board and refreshed the blue blazes to the spring. The spring is running well.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 7/8/2018

Purpose: Whack weeds

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Little Hump

People: Lynn DiFiore

Summary: Attack on the Weeds - Part 1. I used the trusty Stihl to cut from the barn to Little Hump before running out of gas (both myself and the trimmer!). I saw lots of day hikers and very few backpackers. I removed a surprisingly small amount of trash from the barn, for being after a major holiday. I will return next week to complete the section.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 7/8/2018

Purpose: Refresh blazes

Location: Section 20a, Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap, Middle and south end of section

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I completed refreshing the blazes on Temple Ridge and down to Temple Hill Gap. I had hiked up the previous evening and camped out to get an early start on the ridge. There's nothing more delicious than walking down the Appalachian Trail at 6 AM! I also removed some obstructions with a handsaw. I saw only two day hikers.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 7/8/2018

Purpose: Maintain Section

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

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: The Roan High Knob Shelter gets a lot of summer use, and not all the users practice Leave No Trace. Fortunately Roan Naturalist, Travis Bordley, has been picking up trash this summer. I spent a couple of hours dismantling a fire ring near the summit and transporting logs there down to the fire pit at the shelter, the only one which should be used. I had to cut some of the logs to be able to move them. A particularly thoughtless action, that scarred the otherwise primeval setting, was someone dumping a lot of embers between the summit rocks and a nice spruce tree. This is the kind of action that leads many of us to believe campfires should be banned at that shelter and the surrounding area. I cut briars at the three sections that need it - Cloudland, Toll House Gap, and a rise between Toll House Gap and the shelter - and lopped some annual growth.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 7/8/2018

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 8, US 321 to Wilbur Dam Road

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We hiked in about a mile and a half, cutting back weeds and branches. On our return trip to the trail head on 321, we picked up trash. The blazes on the trees close to the trail head are faded and we will need to attend to that on a future trip.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 7/9/2018

Purpose: Whack weeds

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

People: Craig Haire

Summary: For the first time on the trail, I used a Kobalt electric string trimmer with 80 v batteries. I've had good luck with it at home. I cleared the overgrowth from Temple Hill Gap up to the ridge, about a mile, using up 3 of the 4 batteries that I brought. As I drove there in my Nissan LEAF, no fossil fuels were used for the maintenance trip, only inconveniencing a few electrons.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 7/10/2018

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I cut weeds from 19E to Doll Flats, and will return early next week to cut from Doll Flats to Hump.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/12/2018

Purpose: Rehab trail

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

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, David Colson, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Mike Price, Tim Stewart

Summary: We continued the rehab from last year by working up the hill from Low Gap. We saw no hikers today. The humidity was very high with some resulting cramping. We did successfully rehab 240 feet by using locust and rock cribbing to straighten trail and keep a reasonable grade. David was presented with patch number 3774 (since 1999) earned by a new nonmember.



Reporting: Scotty Bowman (SAWS)

Date: 7/14/2018

Purpose: Brush Trail

Location: Section 7, 3.3 miles Trail North from Wilbur Dam Road

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: It was a really good day to be out in the woods. I hiked up to the spring at 3.3 miles from Wilbur Dam Road, which is still trickling pretty good as long as you have a cup to dip to get water. That is where I started brushing with a grass whip/swing blade and was able to knock out 1/2 mile before it was time to head back. Only 5.2 miles to go. I also boot-cleaned two waterbars on my way out.

On the way out, about 2.5 miles from the road, I ran into a bear cub with no mama in sight. This is the third time I have encountered this bear in the same area and have seen signs of its activity along the trail. The last time I encountered it, it followed along below the trail for about 1/4 mile before I was able to scare it off. I saw no other people until hiking out and was about 15 minutes from the car when I ran into two thru-hikers. It was mostly a quiet day, except for the sound of the swing blade.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 7/14/2018

Purpose: Clean waterbars

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

People: Joe Morris

Summary: This installment in our mid-summer classic series is entitled: "Of Waterbars and Stinging Nettles: A Cautionary Tale for Maintenance Personnel Wearing Short Pants." I cleaned waterbars to Weedy Gap. The Trail is in good condition. The USFS has not mowed in the orchard thus far in 2018 and the weeds are responding in kind.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 7/15/2018

Purpose: Whack weeds

Location: Section 14b, Little Hump to top of Hump Mountain

People: Lynn DiFiore, Robert Lamb

Summary: Attack on the Weeds - Part 2: I did a little trimmer-carrying practice to Little Hump before picking up where I stopped last week. I cut to the top of Hump Mountain and back. I picked up a minimal amount of trash at the Bradley Gap campsites, including a hammer(!). The springs are running nicely. I saw very few hikers, perhaps because of the forecasted rain (which never showed). I lost my brand new pair of Mechanix impact gloves somewhere between Little Hump and the barn (men's size Med if anyone happens to turn them in or see them at a shelter).

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 7/16/2018

Purpose: Whack weeds

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Stan Murray Shelter

People: Lynn DiFiore, Steve Tipton

Summary: Attack on the weeds - Part 3: I spent a drizzly day finishing up the weeds from the Barn to Stan Murray. I saw only four hikers total. I removed a large bag of trash from the Barn, including a partially depleted can of bear spray. The Trail was very wet and muddy from recent rains, but at least the weeds are knocked back for now!

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 7/18/2018

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14c, North side of Grassy Ridge

People: Bill Murdoch, Richard Carter

Summary: We cut weeds and encroaching limbs, completing clearing almost to the top of the upper set of switchbacks on the north side of Grassy Ridge.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/18/2018

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds as needed, and removed rocks from the camping area.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/18/2018

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds along the trails as needed. We also cleaned the waterbar.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 7/19/2018

Purpose: Trim weeds

Location: Section 3b, Low Gap north toward spring

People: Rick Lott, Michael Watts

Summary: We took advantage of beautiful weather to cut weeds.

Reporting: Pat Loven

Date: 7/19/2018

Purpose: Trail maintenance

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

People: Karen Loven, Pat Loven

Summary: We drove to the top of White Rock and planned to cover the upper mountain portion of our section. We began by working from the Jeep road crossing south to Canute Place. We had not worked this section this year and quickly found more than we planned. The growth was abundant. We finally got to Canute's and had lunch, then headed back to check the power line. It was a jungle. Again, much more than we planned. All things considered, it was a good day to be out. We saw only three hikers.

Many thanks to Tim for clearing the trail weeds at Canute Place. Hopefully the forestry folks will be able to mow the field soon. What was once a pretty meadow is now a thicket of waist-to-shoulder-high vegetation.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 7/19/2018

Purpose: Whack weeds and assess Trail

Location: Section 14a, Doll Flats to Hump Mountain

People: Jim Chambers, Mike "Lumpy" Price

Summary: Finished cutting vegetation between Doll Flats and Hump Mountain. The endangered species, Bent Avena, was prominent in specific areas; therefore, those areas were not disturbed. We assessed the trail just north of the stile on Hump for possible trail work opportunity with Wright State University. We removed two blowdowns just south of Doll Flats.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 7/21/2018

Purpose: Cut weeds

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

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I cut weeds to Weedy Gap. I met a hiker who had done an overnight from Cloudland to Iron Mtn Gap and reported the northern part of the section was clear without blowdowns.