



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

September 2018

[tehcc.org](http://tehcc.org)

Editor – [Terry Oldfield](#)

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Roan Highlands  
Photo by Travis Bordley

## Save The Date – Fall Dinner Meeting, November 9, 2018



Arrangements have been made to have Suzanne Dixon, ATC President, speak at TEHCC's Fall Dinner Meeting. The meeting will be held on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Eastman Lodge from 5:30 to 9:00 pm. Suzanne is working on the 14-State A.T. Challenge; thus a hike will be planned for Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. More details and registration will be available in the October newsletter.

## TEHCC Membership Discounts

A club membership perk is a 10% discount at four local outfitters (subject to their restrictions): [Mahoney's](#) (Johnson City, TN), [Mountain Sports, Ltd.](#) (Bristol, VA), [Mount Rogers Outfitters](#) (Damascus, VA), and [Highlands Ski and Outdoor Center](#) (Abingdon, VA). The savings on the purchase of good hiking footwear can cover your annual club dues. Your Eastman Recreation Club card with "Hiking Club" indicated is your proof of membership, or the club will provide a suitable membership card upon contacting us at [membership@tehcc.org](mailto:membership@tehcc.org).

In addition to the above outfitters, The Nolichucky Outdoor Learning Institute (NOLI) is now offering a discount to TEHCC members. NOLI offers a variety of training classes including kayaking, whitewater canoeing, water safety awareness, swiftwater rescue, wilderness and basic first aid, CPR, survival, land navigation, self-defense, conservation, and stand-up paddleboarding. Most of the classes are hosted at the facility shared with USA Raft on the banks of the Nolichucky River in Erwin, TN. Lead instructor, Scott Fisher, has taught some of these courses over the years in conjunction with TEHCC and APES. For more information, go to the [NOLI website](#). The discount is obtained by entering the code "TEHCC" at checkout.

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## Mount Rogers Area Temporarily Closed to Dispersed Camping

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*Submitted by Vic Hasler*

Due to increased bear activity, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests are prohibiting dispersed overnight camping, until further notice, in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, Grayson Highlands State Park, and surrounding National Forest lands. This order impacts 17 miles of the Appalachian Trail between Elk Garden/VA-600 and Fox Creek/VA-603, including the three A.T. shelters: Thomas Knob Shelter, Wise Shelter, and Old Orchard Shelter. Backcountry camping within Grayson Highlands SP is also closed, not just along the A.T., while its established car campgrounds remain open for reservations and use.

To view the U.S. Forest Service announcement and map of the closed area, [click here](#). Violation is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both.

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## New Changing House at Green Bridge Landing, Hampton, TN

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*Article by Andy Steffan*

Carter County, Tennessee is creating a community park at Green Bridge Landing, which also serves as the whitewater access point on the Lower Doe River near Hampton High School. As part of the effort, APEs (Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts) built a small house for changing clothes, which resembles the former covered train bridge that crossed the river there. The team of five APEs volunteers logged a combined 189 hours to construct the changing house. The project was funded by roughly \$1,800 in material donations, including a donation from TEHCC. The structure adds character to the new park and helped gain public interest in this historical site. The APEs would like to thank TEHCC for their generous donation and support during this project.



*In-Progress Construction*



*Finished Changing House*



*Old Green Bridge*

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## NC USFS Proposes Bear-Resistant Food Container Requirement for A.T.

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*Article by Vic Hasler based on USFS mailing*

In mid-August, the US Forest Service announced that it is seeking input on a proposal to require bear-resistant food containers for all overnight campers on the Appalachian Trail located in the North Carolina National Forests. The requirement would also be applied to the Panthertown Valley near Cashiers, NC. The TEHCC A.T. Committee will be sending a letter of comments for the proposal. The backpacking public is also encouraged to submit written comments by September 19, 2018 to email address, [comments-southern-north-carolina-nantahala-nantahala@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-north-carolina-nantahala-nantahala@fs.fed.us). Please reference "Bear-Resistant Food Container Requirement" in your subject.

Context for the need is that visitors to the NC National Forests have experienced an increasing number of black bear encounters involving food over the past few years. Most are at places where the public repeatedly camps in the general forest, such as along the A.T., rather than at campgrounds that are equipped with bear-proof trash cans. The incidents include bears taking food and backpacks, damaging tents, and staying near inhabited campsites for hours. While the loss of food is inconvenient for humans, the potentially serious encounters with bears need to be addressed by eliminating human behaviors which lead bears to see people as a source of food. Secure storage for food and scented items (toothpaste, deodorant, beverages, or snacks) that is then placed away from the immediate camping location can help discourage this conduct.

Georgia National Forests already require the use of bear-resistant food containers when overnighting in a designated A.T. section during the spring months ([link to regulation](#)), with a \$5,000 fine per individual and \$10,000 per organization. The proposal by North Carolina Forests is a continuation of that approach. Fixed location food storage (boxes or cable systems) is inadequate to mitigate the impact of the growing number of backpackers enjoying the national scenic trail.

North Carolina has not yet established a list of approved storage systems (this would be part of the next phase once a decision is made to proceed). [Here is a list](#) certified by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. TEHCC has two BearVault storage containers in our rental fleet ([link](#)).

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## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

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Casey Davidson

Johnathan Hammonds

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## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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For the latest, up-to-date information, see [tehcc.org/schedule](http://tehcc.org/schedule).

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

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
September 8	Lower Watauga, Class I-II, 3 pm	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
September 11	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	<a href="#">William Werner</a>	423-229-2253
September 15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a>	423-336-0128
September 22	A.T. Family Hiking Day – <a href="#">Little Rock Knob Overlook</a>	<a href="#">Vic Hasler</a>	423-239-0388
October 9	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	<a href="#">William Werner</a>	423-229-2253
October 20	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a>	423-336-0128
October 26-28	Lake Jocassee Paddle Camp Weekend	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
October 27	Lover's Leap Loop Hike (Hot Springs, NC)	<a href="#">Vic Hasler</a>	423-239-0388

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## Details of Upcoming Events

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### 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](mailto: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](mailto:atmaint@tehcc.org)) for hike details, including meeting time and place.

## **Biweekly on Saturdays through September 8, 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**

### **3rd Saturday - Hiking with Tools, September 15, 2018**

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

One more shelter painting trip! For this month's trip, we will hike out to Curley Maple Gap shelter and paint over the graffiti which has been accumulating there. This is the last shelter we plan to paint for awhile, so this is your last chance to get in on all the fun. The hike to the shelter is only three miles.

We will meet in front of the Parkway Discount Wine and Liquor Store on South Roan Street in Johnson City at 8:30 am to carpool to the trailhead. Other meeting places can be arranged with prior notice. All materials needed will be supplied by the club. Volunteers need only to bring their food and water for the day, wear paint friendly clothes and sturdy walking shoes.

Please let me know by Wednesday, September 12 if you plan to come and where you would like to meet.

### **F/B: A.T. Family Hiking Day – [Little Rock Knob Overlook](#), Saturday, September 22, 2018**

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

Rating: *Easy per TEHCC for 4.4-mile round trip with gradual elevation changes*

This Saturday event is planned to participate in [ATC's Family Hiking Day](#). Hike along the Appalachian Trail through hardwood forest to a great view at Little Rock Knob (elevation 4918'). In 2014, the club greatly improved this section so that the 900' rise, which is a similar climb to Bays Mountain Park's Firetower Trail but over 3-4 times the distance, is much more gradual.

We'll leave Colonial Heights at 9 am to meet at Hughes Gap by 10:15 am. Bring comfortable footwear, appropriate clothing/sun protection, water, bag lunch, and camera. We'll enjoy lunch at the overlook just before noon. Return time back home is mid-afternoon. For further information, check the TEHCC Trail Wiki or call the hike leader.

### **Lake Jocassee Paddle Camp Weekend, Devil's Fork State Park, October 26-28, 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, October 26, 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.



## Lover's Leap Loop (Hot Springs, NC), Saturday, October 27, 2018

Leader: Vic Hasler, 423-239-0388

Rating: Moderate 3-mile hike with 500' climb via a series of switchbacks to overlook



This is a joint hike with the Mid-Appalachian Highlands Club (MAHC) to enjoy views from rock outcroppings above Hot Springs, NC; then we'll have a late lunch together. This Saturday should still be in peak Fall-leaf season for this ~1800' elevation. TEHCC will carpool from Colonial Heights (between McDonalds and Taco Bell), leaving just after sunrise at 8 am sharp to join MAHC at their usual gathering place in Johnson City (by Arby's on Roan Street). The combined group will head out at 8:30 am. The hour drive should have us at the trailhead around 9:30 am to begin the steep climb at a steady pace on the Appalachian Trail. Sturdy footwear and hiking poles are recommended. The difficulty rating depends on your fitness level; the hike leader would call this one Easy for the area.

After enjoying the view from Lover's Leap, the group will continue along the Appalachian Trail until 11:30 am, then turn around to regather at the overlook. Then we'll head down the Lover's Leap Trail to the parking lot. The group will choose the restaurant for lunch, likely either [Spring Creek Tavern](#) or [Iron Horse Station](#). Plan to be back to the carpooling spots by late afternoon. For further information and to let me know of your interest, please call/e-mail the hike leader.

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## For the Record – Hike Report

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### Grayson Highlands State Park, Saturday, August 25, 2018

*Vic Hasler reporting*

A nice sunny Saturday walk in the park – actually a pair of hikes. We started with the 1.6-mile [Twin Pinnacles](#) loop with good highpoint views of the area; and unfortunately, few blueberries. Lunch was enjoyed with other families upon Big Pinnacle looking down into the busy Massie Gap. The group stopped by the visitors' center, then proceeded across the parking lot to 1.4-mile Listening Rock Trail. It was rated "Difficult" by the park, likely because of the elevation change down and up the mountain passing large boulders and outcroppings. Fortunately, park staff had trimmed back the thick Stinging Nettle growing along the path. At the far end was an overlook, but the better vista was Buzzard Rock right off the picnic area. We had finished our hiking for the day by 2 pm, so returned early to Kingsport. Joining us for the first time was Hanieh Niroomand, who has experience with the UT Hiking Club. Other participants were Tim Schaefer, his Great Danes Zoinks! and Beetle, and the hike leader.



*View from Little Pinnacle*



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## A.T. Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** Scotty Bowman (SAWS)

**Date:** 7/26/2018

**Purpose:** Brushing

**Location:** Section 7, 0.5 miles north of Wilbur Dam Rd and 1.2 miles south of Vandeventer Shelter

**People:** Scotty Bowman (SAWS)

**Summary:** Brushing part 2: I hiked in to continue brushing out the trail corridor with a grass whip and was able to knock out another 0.5 mile. There was a blowdown on the switchbacks about 0.5 miles from the road which was across two sections of the trail. It took four cuts to completely clear both sections. The spring 3.3 miles north of Wilbur Dam Rd is still flowing pretty well.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 7/26/2018

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS 230 switchback, North Side Unaka Mtn

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Robin Dean, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Bill Murdoch, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We continued trail rehab by cribbing with some rock but mostly locust logs. We dug and back-filled with a lot of dirt. This hard working crew did 290 feet today. We have another day or two to finish. The temperature was 69° versus the 86° in the Tri-Cities!



**Reporting:** Richard Carter

**Date:** 7/26/2018

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

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

**People:** Richard Carter

**Summary:** I cut weeds along the trail segment just above (south of) the upper switchbacks on the north side of Grassy Ridge.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 7/27/2018

**Purpose:** Cut back encroaching vegetation, clean shelter

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

**People:** Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters

**Summary:** We cut the weeds between Devils Creek Gap and the shelter using swing blades. We also drug a few blowdowns off the trail, but left four chainsaw-worthy ones which had come down recently, all within 1.4 miles of the shelter. The one closest to the shelter, about 0.3 miles south, is the most problematic requiring hikers to crawl under. The others are easy step-overs. At the shelter, we picked up trash and took wire brushes to the interior to scrape off the remainder of the flaking paint in preparation for painting on the next 3<sup>rd</sup>-Saturday trip. The hardware cloth on the front of the sleeping platform has been kicked loose in one place and of course hikers are stuffing trash behind it. The bottom 4x4 is also no longer attached to the side supports so it can swing under the platform. It was a fine day to be in the woods. We only met three other section hikers; interestingly enough, none from this country!

**Reporting:** Gayle Riddervold

**Date:** 7/27/2018

**Purpose:** Routine Maintenance

**Location:** Section 8, US 321 to Wilbur Dam

**People:** Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder, Carl Fritz

**Summary:** We hiked in from the Shook Branch Parking Lot to help Carl Fritz remove three blowdowns. We also cut back thorns and picked up trash on the trail and the parking lot.

**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 7/28/2018

**Purpose:** Reset/replace missing locust-post blazes

**Location:** Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter, Little Hump

**People:** Lynn DiFiore, Robert Lamb, Richard Hatten

**Summary:** Three volunteers, 140 lbs of concrete mix, and a lot of effort were required, but all the locust-post blazes from Yellow Mtn across Little Hump have been secured, replaced (if missing), and repainted. We dispersed two new fire rings on Little Hump, including a large amount of live brush that was hacked off (took them a while to figure out it wouldn't burn). We picked up a minor amount of trash on the trail, and placed a new register at the shelter. Lots of hikers were out. The spring is running well at the barn.

**Reporting:** Gayle Riddervold

**Date:** 7/29/2018

**Purpose:** Routine Maintenance

**Location:** Section 8, US 321 to Wilbur Dam

**People:** Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

**Summary:** We hiked in from the trail off of Oliver Hollow Road, cutting back weeds and trimming bushes. Right before the shelter was a blowdown that was broken in half. We were able to roll one part of the tree off the trail. We started to saw the other half when we realized we'd have to come back another day with a bow saw. Upon returning to the car, we picked up a couple of plastic bottles and a can.

**Reporting:** Richard Carter

**Date:** 8/4/2018

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

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

**People:** Richard Carter

**Summary:** I cut back weeds, briars and nettles along a length of the section north of the Grassy Ridge trail junction, to about a quarter mile from the junction.

**Reporting:** David Ramsey

**Date:** 8/5/2018

**Purpose:** General maintenance

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

**People:** David Ramsey, Mark Ramsey

**Summary:** We traveled south from Indian Grave Gap with the intention of cutting back rhodos, etc. on the last two miles of the 4-mile section. The previous maintainer reported he had already done so on the first two miles and it appeared he had done a good job. Before reaching the portions that still needed to be trimmed back, we encountered one medium blowdown of a Fraser Magnolia and one wash-over from the recent heavy rainfall. Since we did not yet know the extent of cutting we would need to do and did not have chainsaws (nor current permits) we left the blowdown and wash-out for a return trip. The rhodos and other vegetation were not extremely heavy, so we were able to make pretty good time to the shelter. The shelter is in good shape, with no significant debris, trash or structural issues.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 8/6/2018

**Purpose:** Mow

**Location:** Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed and trimmed weeds the camp area, and picked up the trash. The shelter was unbelievably clean. Three section hikers were at the shelter. Water is abundant.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 8/6/2018

**Purpose:** Mow

**Location:** Section 4b, Osborne Farm

**People:** Ted Mowery, Paul Benfield

**Summary:** We mowed and trimmed weeds along the trail. We also cut portions of the apple tree from the trail. The remainder of the tree is along the trail and still needs to be removed. The trail should be sprayed again. We discussed whether we should continue to cut the grass in front of the barn. Nine section hikers came through. Reuben from the Forest Service stopped by.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers (SAWC)

**Date:** 8/6/2018

**Purpose:** Preparation for Trail Event

**Location:** Section 14a, Doll Flats to Hump

**People:** Jim Chambers, Connie Squires

**Summary:** We flagged and began preparation for the Wright State Trail-Work Event scheduled for August 21. We also finalized all materials needed for the rehab needed north of Hump.

**Reporting:** Ken Murray

**Date:** 8/6/2018

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

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

**People:** Ken Murray, Carl Fritz

**Summary:** We removed eight blowdowns and repaired the wire mesh under the sleeping platform in the shelter.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/7/2018

**Purpose:** Repair adze

**People:** Paul Benfield

**Summary:** Paul located and, with a lot of sanding, fitted a new handle to our small adze.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/7/2018

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns and check horse trails

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

**People:** Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** We inspected Tower Road and adjoining trails on top of White Rocks Mountain as hiking and horse trails. Tim and Pat are keeping their sections in great shape by keeping vegetation cut back. We had hiker reports of some problem blowdowns, as well as, Tim discovered a large blowdown that could be gotten under fairly easily, but we expected it had settled down further. We removed 11 blowdowns. Many were stepovers or 4-inch suspended head high. There were three major blowdowns near either Canute Place or Moreland Gap Shelter.

We saw only one hiker. She was a young lady from Czech Republic with a heavy pack. She started at Carver's Gap and was hoping to hike 100 miles before having to get to Ohio to fly back home. She had been spending the summer clearing trails in the Dominican Republic for hurricane recovery. She had gotten to Florida for her first visit to the U.S. and hitch hiked to Carver's Gap.

**Reporting:** Phyllis Cairnes

**Date:** 8/7/2018

**Purpose:** Maintain shelter

**Location:** Section 2b, : Abingdon Gap Shelter to McQueen's Gap Abingdon Gap shelter

**People:** Deb Helmer, Phyllis Cairnes

**Summary:** We carried in a new shovel and carried out the broken one. We picked up trash, shoveled out the fire ring, and replaced the shelter journal. Though the graffiti board was clean, someone had written on the wall in two places, "write on the wall and not the graffiti board." We really appreciated that the weeds had been cut along the trail. It was a nice day to be out.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers (SAWC)

**Date:** 8/9/2018

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

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

**People:** Jim Chambers, Mike "Lumpy" Price

**Summary:** We removed a large Red Oak that was completely blocking the trail just south of Double Springs Shelter. We also removed two other blowdowns between Cross Mountain and Double Springs Shelter. Lumpy got some trigger time on this outing, and he performed very well. His confidence and situational awareness are improving with every trip to the field.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/10/2018

**Purpose:** Prepare for Wright State Event

**Location:** Section 14a, Doll Flats to Hump Mountain

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Elzear Lemieux, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Mike Price, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart



**Summary:** We transported locust logs from general Carver's Gap area to Doll Flats. We debarked most of them. We transported many of the logs to the north side of Hump Mountain for use when Wright State University students come to help rehab.

When Bill and I had just arrived with logs near the top of Hump Mountain, we met a group hiking towards us. Two of them were Wright State University students who worked with us in 2007! They met each other on that trip, married and have three children. This was the first they had been back to the area and they brought seven of their relatives with them to hike the Roans. Six of them had never backpacked before.



**Reporting:** Kat Johnson

**Date:** 8/11/2018

**Purpose:** Paint blazes

**Location:** Section 12a, Walnut Mountain Road to the river

**People:** Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

**Summary:** Even though it has been done fairly recently, the trail still needs some lopping. There are two dead trees by the bridge (first one north of Walnut Mtn Road) that may cause problems with bridge foundations. Hopefully we can take care of those soon as it may not be long before one falls.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 8/14/2018

**Purpose:** Check shelter

**Location:** Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

**People:** Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters

**Summary:** We hiked out to Iron Mtn Shelter to do maintenance. The shelter area was much cleaner than expected considering I hadn't been out there in awhile. At the shelter, we left a new log book and repainted the graffiti board. Apparently the same inconsiderate hikers that stayed at Abingdon Gap shelter and marked on the wall there, also visited Iron Mtn Shelter. They wrote that graffiti was an A.T. tradition, along with some other vulgar comments suggesting anatomically impossible acts. These were painted over of course, along with some new graffiti and some that had bled through the previous shelter painting. We picked up trash, only one small bag! On the way back out, we removed a couple of blowdowns. The water sources are flowing well and this section is in good shape.

**Reporting:** Katie Currier

**Date:** 8/15/2018

**Purpose:** Annual Brushing

**Location:** Section 7, First 2 miles Trail North from Wilbur Dam Rd

**People:** Leigh Rothermel, Cayce Moyer, Beth Griffin, Kacey Bickley, Shawndra Russell, Izzy Moon, Leanna Joyner, Chloe DeCamar, Elamon Barrett, Katie Currier

**Summary:** This was a women's work day with SAWS and ATC. We recruited 5 volunteers and had 5 staff members out brushing SAWS' section. We used swing blades, loppers, and handsaws to remove vegetation from the trail corridor for 2 miles from Wilbur Dam Road headed trail north. We also cleaned up about 10 lbs of trash.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/15/2018

**Purpose:** Prepare for Wright State Event

**Location:** Section 14a, Doll Flats to Hump Mountain

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Elzear Lemieux, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Hale Nicholson "Ember", Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, "Barley"

**Summary:** We primarily toted more locust logs and stakes up to Hump Mountain. There are now enough to support Wright State

University students next week. Some did trail rehab, including setting a couple of steps, fixing some loose rock steps and back filling a root ball hole in the trail. Elzear endured a second hard work session, so we are glad to have him as a recent retiree. "Barley" volunteered to come off Hump Mountain, retrieve a locust step, and tote it back up.

**Reporting:** Richard Carter

**Date:** 8/16/2018

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 14c, North side of Grassy Ridge

**People:** Richard Carter

**Summary:** I cut weeds just north of the Grassy Ridge Trail junction, completing the weed cutting from Stan Murray Shelter to the trail junction.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 8/18/2018

**Purpose:** Cut back encroaching vegetation and paint shelter

**Location:** Section 20b, Spivey Gap to FS road crossing and No Business Knob Shelter

**People:** Terry Oldfield, Nicole Samu, Kim Peters, Lori Mirrer, Ken Murray, Lotta Murray

**Summary:** Ken and Lotta started their day by brushing out the trail between Spivey Gap and the FS road crossing. They then drove around to Can Lot and hiked in to the shelter to join the rest of the crew, carrying in a new graffiti board created by Lotta. We painted the interior of the shelter and most of the outside walls, and replaced the graffiti board and log book. The last couple of entries in the log book commented on the cleanliness of the shelter and area, and how nice it was to stay there.

Even though I drove through heavy rains going to the trail and heavy rains returning home, we did not get a drop of rain while on the trail, and even hiked out in sunshine. This was another great 3<sup>rd</sup>-Saturday trip. Many thanks to first timer Nicole Samu who traveled from Knoxville to join us, as well as Lori Mirrer who once again traveled all the way from Charlotte to help out.



*Before and After*



*Kim hiking with paint*



*Getting it done*



*Freshly painted with new graffiti board*

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 8/19/2018

**Purpose:** Maintain Section

**Location:** Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Hack Line Road

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** I had enough time to clear briars, nettles, and new tree growth between Carvers Gap and the Hack Line, and along the blue-blazed trail to the spring near Carvers Gap. I also cut off some roots which could have caused tripping. The site near the spring that I was contemplating for a distance sign, to replace the one sawed off at Carvers Gap, would be at an angle to hikers coming from one direction or the other. Instead, I think I'm going to use the existing post, already concreted in, and wrap some wire around the post to dissuade anyone else from cutting the post.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers (SAWC)

**Date:** 8/21/2018

**Purpose:** Wright State/SAWC/TEHCC Group Event

**Location:** Section 14a, Doll Flats to Hump Mountain

**People:** Connie Squires, Jim Chambers, Mike Price, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Jennifer Berry, Rio Berry, Renee Hartman, Kelsey Tomier, Eric Edwards, Jacob Reynolds, Sabrina Flacke, Hannah Kroger, Paige Meriwether, Travis Lanterman, Hunter Gohgloff, Sean McGraw, Paul Casper, John Beaudet, Ted Mowry, Elzear Lemieux, Joe Morris, Dean Baird, Bill Murdock, Paul Benfield, Melissa Stahl

**Summary:** The inaugural trail event for the Southern Appalachian Work Center (SAWC) was held on August 21, 2018. This event was conducted in partnership with TEHCC and Wright State University. All work was performed between Doll Flats and Hump Mountain. Primary focus was major rehab just north of the stile on Hump Mountain and just south of Doll Flats. Although there was significant rain throughout the day, SAWC, TEHCC, and Wright State students rehabbed 240 feet of trail, including 100 linear feet of locust cribbing, 19 locust steps, 30 square feet of rip-rap, 6 water diversions, and 2 lateral drains.

**Reporting:** Gayle Riddervold

**Date:** 8/22/2018

**Purpose:** Routine Maintenance

**Location:** Section 8, US 321 to Wilbur Dam

**People:** Gayle Riddervold and Becky Kinder

**Summary:** We hiked in from Oliver Hollow Road, cutting back weeds and rhododendrons. We cut down one small tree that was starting to hang down into the trail. We then went back to the tree that was sitting halfway in the trail near the shelter. We started to saw it when it began to rain. At this point it was too wet to cut, so we headed back to the trail head to pick up trash. Someone has left three bags of what appears to be wet clothes sitting next to the steps going down to the trail. If no one claims these articles, we will take them to the dumpster on our next trip.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 8/23/2018

**Purpose:** Mow

**Location:** Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed and trimmed weeds at the campground and the trails as needed. We also piled the firewood that was scattered over the campground, picked up trash, and repaired the floor of the privy. Two new holes need to be bored in the base of the throne to better secure it. The screw in the front of the throne is in a crack between two boards. We will have to remember to take in a metal bit, screws, and drill on the next work trip. Everything works well.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 8/23/2018

**Purpose:** Mow

**Location:** Section 4b, Osborne Farm

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed and trimmed weeds along the trail as needed. The Forest Service have removed the apple tree and stump. We need to fill in the holes and remove the remainder of the small limbs and clumps of wood that were left. We removed all the limbs and wood we could find, prior to mowing. The Accessible trail in badly in need of another spraying. The grass is nearly covering the trail in places and is only a path without grass in others.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 8/23/2018

**Purpose:** Routine Maintenance

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

**People:** Joe Morris, Robin Dean

**Summary:** We started at Greasy Creek Friendly and cut weeds on the northern end of the section. We then drove to Iron Mtn Gap and cut weeds to the orchard. The Forest Service still has not mowed the orchard and the apples are starting to fall. The jewel weed and stick weed are quite high and plentiful. It was a beautiful day in the woods.