



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

October 2018

tehcc.org

Editor – [Terry Oldfield](#)

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Tim Stewart's Photo Wins First Place in "Trails 50" Photo Contest

Submitted by Vic Hasler

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act, an on-line photo contest was held with several different categories. Our own Tim Stewart entered the above photograph and won first place in the Volunteerism category. Shown in the photo are some of the hard-working volunteers who replaced the 61-foot Koonford Bridge in the Laurel Fork Gorge along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail during Fall 2014. The bridge is located in the Pond Mountain Wilderness. Everything, including 12 tons of lumber, concrete, hardware, and tools had to be hauled about 0.8 mile by trail from Dennis Cove. Overall, 2640 hours and \$6500 were invested in this project. Thanks to Tim for recognizing the great work of TEHCC volunteers and our partner organizations. Check out www.trails50.org/photo-contest/.

TEHCC Fall Dinner – Friday, November 9, 2018



Arrangements have been made to have Suzanne Dixon, ATC President, speak at TEHCC's Fall Dinner Meeting. Suzanne is also working on the 14-State A.T. Challenge; thus a short hike to Jane Bald has been planned for Saturday, November 10th (see separate hike notice later in newsletter).

Dinner will be provided by Phil's Dream Pit BBQ. Cost is \$8/person with the Steering Committee acquiring the beverages and dessert. Attending only the program is free; however, we'll need a **paid** headcount to properly size the food order; so please make reservations with Hal by Tuesday, November 6th. Checks, payable to Hal Yungmeyer, can be mailed to PO Box 511, Building 280, Kingsport, TN 37662-5280.

(For more information, see Fall Dinner Meeting schedule, next page.)

TEHCC Fall Dinner – Friday, November 9, 2018 (cont'd)

Event	Time	Details
Fall Dinner Meeting	5:30pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
Happy "Trails" Hour	5:30pm-6:30pm	Donations accepted for beer and wine, or BYOB
Dinner – BBQ sandwiches and sides Water/Tea/Lemonade Coffee and Dessert	6:30pm-7:15pm	Phil's Dream Pit (\$8 per person)
Club Business	7:15pm-7:30pm	- Update of club activities - ATC Awards
Program: Topic TBD	7:30pm-9:00pm	Suzanne Dixon (Appalachian Trail Conservancy)

TEHCC Patch Available for Purchase at B310 Recreation Office

The club patch features a highland bald, mountain laurel, a waterfall, and the Appalachian Trail icon in six colors on a 3" circle. It has merrowed stitching along the edge to give it durability.

The patch is available for \$4 (including TN sales tax) if obtained in person, picked up at the Building 310 Recreation Office, or delivered through the Eastman plant mail. An additional \$1 is charged if the patch is mailed to an address in the USA. Upfront payment can be either cash or check made out to TEHCC delivered to the Building 310 Recreation Office:

Eastman Chemical Company

PO Box 511

Kingsport, TN 37660-5310

Attn: Recreation/Hiking Club/Patch Order



Mount Rogers Area Temporarily Closed to Dispersed Camping

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.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Casey Davidson

Johnathan Hammonds

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

For the latest, up-to-date information, see tehcc.org/schedule.

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

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
October 9	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253
October 20	3 rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-336-0128
October 26-28	Lake Jocassee Paddle Camp Weekend	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
October 27	Lover's Leap Loop Hike, Hot Springs, NC	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
November 9	TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting	Hal Yungmeyer	Mail checks to B280
November 10	A.T. Hike: Carvers Gap to Jane Bald	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
November 10 - 11	TEHCC and APEs Wilderness First Aid and CPR Courses	TBD	
November 13	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253

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](#).

Scheduled Events

3rd Saturday - Hiking with Tools, October 20, 2018

Leader: Kim Peters, atmaint@tehcc.org, 423-366-0128

One more shelter painting trip! This event didn't happen last month because of Florence, so we'll try again this month. 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, October 17 if you plan to come and where you would like to meet.

Lake Jocassee Paddle Camp Weekend, Devil's Fork State Park, October 26-28, 2018

Trip Coordinator: [Debbie Briscoe](mailto:Debbie.Briscoe@scstatepark.com), 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*



Revised plans: The Mid-Appalachian Highlands Club (MAHC) decided to not have a joint hike with TEHCC. However, we are still planning to host this hike to enjoy views from rock outcroppings above Hot Springs, NC, then have a late lunch together. Now with a good turn: The orange blazes on Lover's Leap Trail ([USFS brochure](#)) need to be refreshed, thus permission has been obtained from the ranger district to perform this service.

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 swing by Johnson City (behind Parkway Discount Wine & Liquor on Roan Street) to join up with club members. The drive should have us at the Silvermine trailhead around 9:30 am to begin with a short road walk, then the steep climb at a steady pace on the Appalachian Trail. Sturdy footwear and hiking poles are recommended.

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 trail intersection. We'll head down the Lover's Leap Trail while applying orange blazes at key locations until we reach the parking lot. The group will choose the restaurant for lunch, likely either [Spring Creek Tavern](#) or [Iron Horse Station](#). The plan is to be back to the carpooling spots by late afternoon. For further information and to let us know of your interest, please call/e-mail the hike leader.

A.T.: Carvers Gap to Jane Bald, Saturday, November 10, 2018

Leader: Vic Hasler, 423-239-0388

Rating: *Easy-Moderate 2.8-mile round trip with gradual elevation changes*

On Friday, November 9th, the speaker at TEHCC's Fall Dinner is Suzanne Dixon (ATC President) who is working on completing the 14-State A.T. Challenge – and needs Tennessee. The club is planning a hike in the Roan Highlands to discuss visitor use impacts, particularly on Round Bald, which is a current topic across the entire Appalachian Trail.

Let's leave Colonial Heights at 8 am to meet at Carvers Gap (5,512' elevation) around 9:30 am. Bring comfortable footwear, appropriate clothing layers (several degrees cooler up there), sun protection, water, and camera. The group will follow the A.T. for 0.7 mile to Round Bald (5,826' elevation) where we'll stop to talk and admire the views, then continue another 0.7 mile to Jane Bald (5,807' elevation) to allow comparison of the impact a short additional distance makes on public use. Then we'll return to the vehicles and proceed to lunch at Smoky Mountain Bakers in the A.T. Community of Roan Mountain, TN. For further information, please contact the hike leader.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Thank you, Appalachian Trail Maintainers! All TEHCC sections have been covered at least once in 2018 per the submitted reports. A.T. hikers are favorably noting the first-rate condition; so good work! Please read below to see where we've been and what we've been doing during the past month or so.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 8/4/2018

Purpose: Treat ash trees for emerald ash borer

Location: Section 5, TN 91/Cross-Mountain Trailhead Parking Area and South

People: Dan Firth, Matt Drury (ATC)

Summary: Approximately 20 healthy ash trees in the vicinity of the Cross Mountain trailhead parking lot and the A.T. south were treated with injectable insecticide to protect against the emerald ash borer. Holes were drilled around the circumference of the trunk, plugged, and insecticide injected. Together with trees treated earlier on Iron Mountain near the Grindstaff Monument, over 100 ash trees have been treated along the TEHCC section of the A.T. and over 500 treated in the Southern Region. It is hoped that these treatments will help preserve the integrity of these forests.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 8/10/2018

Purpose: ATC Volunteer Leadership Meeting

Location: Shepherdstown, WV

People: Dan Firth, Hal Yungmeyer

Summary: We travelled to Shepherdstown, WV to attend the ATC Volunteer Leadership Meeting at the National Conservation Training Center. Attending were representatives from all maintaining clubs, A.T. Communities, ATC, and governmental partners. This event is intended for volunteers wanting to grow their involvement and who are early in their volunteer career, but is also informative for veterans. It is an excellent opportunity to network with others, in all capacities, who support the A.T. As such, a major theme is the cooperative management model used to bring all the partners together. A second theme woven throughout the training was developing diversity across all A.T. constituencies to ensure broad based support, financially and from volunteers and users.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 8/16/2018

Purpose: Trim weeds

Location: Section 3b, Spring to US 421

People: Michael Watts

Summary: I trimmed weeds north from the stopping point of the last work trip.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 8/29/2018

Purpose: Rehab trail

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

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Elzear Lemieux, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart

Summary: We wrapped up the rehab on the north side of Unaka Mountain by putting in more side logs and back filling. A hiker reported that the litter was terrible at Cherry Gap Shelter; and we knew there was a large blowdown near there. The blowdown was removed just south of the shelter. The litter at the shelter and in the fire ring did not fill a grocery bag.



Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 8/31/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

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

People: Kevin Sedgwick, Gloria Sedgwick

Summary: I knew there would be many blowdowns, but we found more than planned for. We cleared about 12, ranging from a few

inches to 26" in diameter. One looked like it had just fallen. We met one hiker, a section hiker going to Springer Mountain. We got caught in the afternoon rain.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman (SAWS)

Date: 9/1/2018

Purpose: Collect data

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

People: Scotty Bowman (SAWS)

Summary: It was a really good day to be out in the woods, nice and hot. I spent the day collecting latitude and longitude coordinates for structures and signs located in the Pond Mountain Wilderness. While I was out there, I cleaned up trash from three fire rings and the shelter. There wasn't too much trash to pick up, just a total of 5 pounds. There were a couple of blowdowns; I will return Wednesday morning to remove them. One is located about 0.2 mile from the Dennis Cove parking area, is a step-over and not causing any issues. The other one, located on the Hampton side at the Wilderness boundary on the steps going down into the gorge, is a bit of a challenge to get through. I also talked with 43 visitors during the day.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 9/1/2018

Purpose: Walk-through and routine tasks

Location: Section 19b, From Nolichucky outfitter to last campsite before switchback

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: I decided to beat the afternoon heat and predicted showers to check the trail. I saw no blowdowns, and a group coming from the Nolichucky bridge said that section was good also. Tasks finished were opening some rhododendron tunnels, dismantling five fire rings, and hauling out some trash (aluminum does not burn!). I could not dismantle the sixth fire ring as there was a tent right next to it with a hiker sleeping late. The previous work sessions really helped this year. I got back to the truck as a drizzle started.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 9/2/2018

Purpose: Maintain shelter

Location: Section 12b: Walnut Mountain Road to Sugar Hollow Creek Mountaineer Falls shelter

People: Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

Summary: We hiked out to check the shelter and repainted the graffiti board. It was full, but only one small mark was found to the side of it. Otherwise the shelter was graffiti free. We also cleaned out the fire pit (when will people learn that aluminium foil doesn't burn?), picked up trash including discarded clothing and a towel, and left a new log book. This shelter needs a new broom. Several entries in the log book remarked on how nice the shelter was, but that there was trash in the fire pit and they wished people would stop doing that. So do!! Thunder rumbled on the way back, but we managed to stay dry.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 9/3/2018

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 8, US 321 to Wilbur Dam

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We hiked in from Oliver Hollow Road to the Watauga Shelter. Along the way we cut and removed two blowdowns, cut back weeds and rhododendra, and picked up a few pieces of trash.

Reporting: Kayla Carter

Date: 9/3/2018

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 12c, Elk River and halfway to Jones Falls

People: Kayla Carter

Summary: Great way to spend Labor Day! I trimmed the grassy area near Elk River and cut back some encroaching vegetation along the corridor from the A.T. access point to about halfway to Jones Falls. I picked up trash as well. I plan to go back soon to sweep the other half! I am quite concerned about erosion of the little fisherman's trail to access this half of my section. I know it's not a "legal" trail per se; but I'm wondering what we might be able to do to possibly rebuild it? Would we need to discuss this with USFS? It's clear that people know about it and use it, as I crossed paths with one group of three and a solo hiker coming from the A.T. Other than that, this half of my section looked great! I plan to bring our new AmeriCorps member, Erica Malpass, with me next time I go out. You all might be seeing her at some meetings and work days coming up!

Reporting: Kenneth Buchanan

Date: 9/3/2018

Purpose: Cut weeds and briars

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

People: Ken Buchanan, Wayne Buchanan

Summary: I was able to convince Wayne he should labor on Labor day. We were on the trail before 8 this morning. The section was in better shape than I expected, so we moved right along. We used a string trimmer and hand sythe to clear vegetation. We also cleaned some trash from the fire ring at the shelter. We met five hikers; three day hikers and two backpackers. I told the backpackers they'd better pick up the pace to get to Maine before snowfall. It was a fine day to be out and about.

Reporting: Eric Middlemas

Date: 9/4/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 17, 1 to 1.5 miles south of Iron Mountain Gap

People: Eric Middlemas, Pat Kenney

Summary: We removed two large blowdowns about 1.0 and 1.5 miles south of Iron Mtn Gap. The second blowdown was a large (~24 inch) diameter, dead tree that was previously wedged against other trees just above the trail. (I removed the other part of the same tree 2 years ago). It had recently broken loose and rolled on to the trail. We cut it into sections and rolled it off the trail. A section hiker generously helped us roll the last section. There has been some recent horseback riding along this section of the trail and some minor treadway damage as a result. In particular, the outer edge of the treadway was torn away in spots and some nascent mudholes were beginning to form from horse hooves sinking into the soft dirt. A backpacker told us that hoof prints were present also around Cherry Gap shelter. A sign at Iron Mtn Gap, indicating that horseback riding is not permitted, might be helpful to discourage further occurrences.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 9/4/2018

Purpose: Scout for access and available materials for future rehab project

Location: Section 16b, Greasy Creek Gap and south for a mile

People: Jim Foster

Summary: After scouting the road and trail access from Tiger Creek, I walked about a mile trail south looking for possible locusts and rock for a future rehab project. I then proceeded on to Clyde Smith Shelter and removed one small blowdown. It was a good day and the trail is in good shape.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 9/4/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdown

Location: Section 5, 0.2 mile south of TN 91

People: Carl Fritz, Kim Peters

Summary: On my last trip out, a large dead tree was found at the base of the first set of stairs heading south from TN 91. Carl was kind enough to offer his help to remove it. He carried the chainsaw, but the rock bar proved to be the right tool for the task. The dead tree had cracked on falling and we were able to break it up and move it off the trail using the rock bar.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 9/5/2018

Purpose: Mow

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

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed, trimmed weeds, and picked up wood from the campground. Water is plentiful, however the pipe at the lower spring needs to be reinstalled. We saw a hiker at the Osborne Farm who said there were 105 campers at Overmountain Shelter on Saturday night, including two scout troops. The shelter and the campground were the cleanest I have ever seen.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 9/5/2018

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds at the Accessible and Appalachian Trail on the Osborne Farm. At least one post needs to be replaced at the stiles.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman (SAWS)

Date: 9/5/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Sections 9b & 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

People: Scotty Bowman (SAWS)

Summary: I cleared two blowdowns from the trail using a crosscut and axe. One was located about 0.2 mile from the Wilderness portal sign, trail north from Dennis Cove and was 12-14" in diameter. The other one was located just inside the Wilderness boundary on the steps going down into the gorge on the blue-blaze trail. It was a complex of three trees that had fallen across the trail/steps. I cut out two of the trees; one was a small 6" and the other one was larger with two of it's branches going across the

trail. I left the larger one of about 24". It had fallen with the top of the tree wedged into an L shape across the trail and up another tree. There were still a good amount of fibers attached at the bend and, when I checked for soundness and stability, it would wobble. I was concerned about it coming down during the cutting process, so decided not to cut as I could not do it safely. I will reassess in a couple of days. As of now, hikers can pass by safely.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/6/2018

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 15a, Carver's Gap to Hack Line Road

People: Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Elzear Lemieux, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick

Summary: We brought in many locust logs and stakes. Then we installed them as waterbars and steps. We also put new lathe on all the bog bridges. The crew has made this section of trail much better for the upcoming winter. There were a few section and day hikers; all expressed appreciation for our endeavors.



Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 9/6/2018

Purpose: Routine trail maintenance

Location: Section 9b, Hampton blue-blaze trail

People: Dean Baird, Jennifer Baird

Summary: We noted that the rhododendra and all small trees under the power lines have been cut, presumably by the electric company. (We have not been on the trail for several weeks; I do not know when this was done.) Also, the blowdown on the steps just inside the Wilderness boundary that was mostly removed by Scotty Bowman was noted. (See 9/5/2018 report for blowdown description and 9/19/2018 report for removal. What a team!) Otherwise, we removed a small amount of trash and did minimal weeding.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 9/7/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 12c, North of Campbell Hollow Road

People: Jim Chambers, Mike "Lumpy" Price, Rick Lott

Summary: We removed a fairly complex 28" maple tree that was creating a complete obstruction on the trail. We also removed a 16" pine just north of the worksite.

Reporting: Jim Chambers (SAWC)

Date: 9/9/2018

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 14a, Doll Flats to Hump Mountain

People: Jim Chambers, Connie Squires

Summary: We performed final back-fill, raking, and final touches to the Wright State worksite on Hump Mountain. We also inventoried all materials for future work in this area, and moved some of the materials at Doll Flats so that they are not so easily seen from the trail. We removed two blowdowns south of Doll Flats.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 9/9/2018

Purpose: Clear trail

Location: Section 8, About halfway up Killer Hill from Wilbur Dam Road

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: While on a short mushroom-hunting stroll, I moved a pretty large trunk and limb out of the Trail. I also cut back some rhododendra and limbs.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 9/10/2018

Purpose: TEHCC A.T. Committee

Location: Eastman Recreation Center

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

Summary: The TEHCC A.T. Committee met to cover several topics, including Overmountain Shelter, social trails on Roan Highlands, nearest medical facility from trailheads, and NETREP Stewardship Council.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 9/13/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdowns, Rehab Trail

Location: Sections 12a & b, north and south of Walnut Mtn Road to south of Mountaineer Falls Shelter

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Elzear Lemieux, Ted Mowry, Bill Murdock, Bob Peoples, Mike "Lumpy" Price

Summary: It was a very productive day, north and south of Walnut Mountain Road with a nine-person crew. Split into two crews, 80 feet of side-hill rehab was conducted just south of Walnut Mountain Road, along with tree felling north at the log bridge and additional waterbars and cribbing south of the road crossing. The other crew hiked south of Mountaineer Falls Shelter for major blowdown removal. In total, one 42" red oak was removed, a 28" red oak, and a 20" poplar. One of the blowdowns created the need for a 20-foot relocation on the low side of the root ball. An additional 20 feet of cribbing was installed at this location, and a new trail was created.



Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 9/13/2018

Purpose: Clean waterbars and check trail for blowdowns

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

People: Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: Bruce and I removed four blowdowns, cleaned waterbars and trimmed along the trail. Though with the approaching hurricane, we're not sure how long the trail will remain in good shape.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman (SAWS)

Date: 9/13/2018

Purpose: Check shelter, Collect data

Location: Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: It was a cool and foggy morning when I hiked up to Vandeventer Shelter to do some data collecting. I checked the spring at 3.3 miles from Wilbur Dam Rd and it is still flowing a little. The shelter was pretty tidy with some trash to remove from fire ring. The spring for the shelter is flowing fairly well.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman (SAWS)

Date: 9/14/2018

Purpose: Brushing

Location: Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: I hiked in and started at 2.5 miles from Wilbur Dam Rd. Using a grass whip, I cut back vegetation for 0.7 mile, almost to the spring.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/18/2018

Purpose: Assess Trail

Location: Section 15a, Round Bald to Hack Line Rd

People: Carl Fritz

Summary: Primarily, I was checking trail conditions after Hurricane Florence. There was no noticeable water or wind damage from Round Bald to Hack Line Road. The new water diversions south of Carver's Gap seem to be working well. It would be desirable to get a little gravel moved in and I made some measurements of volume. Only three day-hikers, a section hiker and two south bounders were in the area.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 9/18/2018

Purpose: Storm Damage Assessment

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Hump Mountain

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I assessed the trail and began clean-up from 19E to Hump as a result of Hurricane Florence. The trail between Doll Flats and Hump definitely experienced high winds, and there is still significant run off in several areas. I will have to return with a chainsaw and swamper for larger trees north and south of Doll Flats.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/19/2018

Purpose: Cut hazard tree

Location: Section 9b, Hampton Bue-Blaze Trail

People: Dean Baird, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples

Summary: Just a couple hundred feet within the wilderness, an oak uprooted. The top is caught in another tree on other side of the trail; the trunk partially broke with the trunk blocking the trail; and the broken 12" tree planted itself vertically in the center of the trail with the top extending up about 35 feet. The only hiker path was under the tree, and everything was unstable. We used a rope system to get some control and we did some cutting to fell it back from whence it came. Thus, a hazard tree was successfully removed. All hands were needed to transport tools, block hikers, do cutting, and apply force with rope come-along plus side-pull.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 9/19/2018

Purpose: Trail assessment after storm

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

People: Kevin Sedgwick, Gloria Sedgwick

Summary: We checked the section after the storm. Gloria shuttled me. I was surprised that it was mostly clear, except for four blowdowns. The largest was 16" in diameter; nothing major that a hiker couldn't step over. I will return later to clear it. I pushed some large limbs off the trail and cut back vegetation in spots. The Forest Service had mowed the field before the ridge above Isaac's cemetery; the tractor was still there. They knocked over one of the sign posts.

The interesting event was that I found a couple who had come to the cemetery on the lesser-used dirt road, not the main one. It was very muddy and they tried to turn around and got stuck. The trail is very close there and they were almost on the trail. I tried to help, but it was too muddy to get the car out. They had help coming. I don't know how they got that far with all the water and mud.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/20/2018

Purpose: Assess blowdowns

Location: Sections from US 321 to Damascus

People: Elzear Lemieux

Summary: Elzear has started section hiking the A.T. During his three-day backpack from US 321 to Damascus, he recorded all the major blowdowns with pictures and locations. It was right after the remnants of Hurricane Florence came through, so the information has been very useful.



Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/20/2018

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Rd to 2.5 miles south

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Robin Dean, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick

Summary: We cut a fair number of blowdowns; some were multiple. But none were huge obstacles. About a mile south of Mountaineer Falls Shelter, we installed a turnpike to solve a very muddy area. We also cleaned out a stream stepover and widened the stepover so the water path would not stop so rapidly. Others worked near Walnut Mountain Road to improve the sidehill and also installed a large culvert pipe to handle much of the water spilling off the road. A few waterbars

are needed in a steep area. Otherwise, trail condition is good.

Reporting: Pat Loven

Date: 9/20/2018

Purpose: Check trail, Perform routine maintenance

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

People: Dennis Dugan, Pat Loven

Summary: We worked north today from Jeep Road on top of White Rock Mountain. Our main purpose was to check the mountain-top section for storm damage. We found the trail to be in very good shape. We did use a chainsaw to remove a few step-overs and some minor overhead hazards. We also cut back vegetation. We talked with a couple of south bounders headed for Springer. They said they'd not encountered any major blockages in a few days.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 9/21/2018

Purpose: Mow

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

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the camping area and cut weeds as needed along the trails. There is plenty of water, but the water is no longer going through the pipe at the lower water source. The throne has been drilled and screwed to the platform of the privy. There is very little damage to the road caused by the recent rain, but the grassy area near the shelter is water logged from the rain.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 9/21/2018

Purpose: Mow

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. The picnic area by the stiles was not mowed due to trouble with the mower.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 9/21/2018

Purpose: Measure trail distances, Check campground

Location: Section 3b, US 421 to McQueens Knob emergency shelter

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: It's time to update the trail books. I contributed several changes to the A.T. Data Book and WhiteBlaze Pages. The TEHCC section of the A.T. is officially 133.8 miles from TN/VA border to Spivey Gap with the 0.1 mile correction between TN 91 and Iron Mtn Shelter measured last October. In support of this effort, I also walked and measured distances from US 421 to McQueens Knob emergency shelter to follow up on a campsite question. (Recommendation is to not include the campsite at 2.6 miles in these guides.) No storm damage was observed along this section. Weed trimming was excellent until it stopped at 1.5 miles, so the briars need urgent attention for next 1000' then on uphill side to McQueens Knob. The blue blazes should be repainted at the spring (2.3 miles), then also at Double Spring Gap campsite where I could not find the side trail to its water source. The McQueens Knob sign is missing. Water flow at the US 421 spring was excellent – filling a 15 fl.oz. cup in 40-45 seconds. I picked up several grocery bags of trash from the south-side parking area. Overall, a nice Friday evening hike.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 9/22/2018

Purpose: Check Section after Florence

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

People: Dan Firth

Summary: I spent National Public Lands Day checking and removing blowdowns after Florence. I reduced one chest-high, multi-trunk blowdown to two step-overs that will be removed later, along with multiple other small blowdowns. I cut back the encroaching briars while checking the section.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 9/22/2018

Purpose: Inventory kiosks along TEHCC section

Location: From Backbone Rock Trailhead to Chestoa Parking Lot

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: Since no one contacted me or showed up for the ATC Family Day Hike to Little Rock Knob, I decided, instead, to inventory the kiosks along the club's A.T. section. My goal was to identify which kiosks need repairs and/or updated content. A total of 17 kiosks were identified to create two new tables for the club's Local Management Plan. Ten kiosks were deemed having good content with the best at the Cloudland parking area with large, easily-read font and good topics. The kiosk in the Carvers Gap parking lot is leaning, but could be reset vertical with a little digging and supportive backfill. Five kiosks are in bad condition with no content and/or missing a protective plastic sheet. The kiosk at Watauga Dam Road gives a 615 area code for the USFS office number, which

was changed in 1995. I did not quickly find the kiosk that ATC said was at the seasonally-closed Shook Branch Rec Area. This information will facilitate conversations among A.T. partners on how to best use kiosks to keep hikers informed.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 9/22/2018

Purpose: Check condition and trim growth

Location: Section 19b, Chestoa parking lot for 0.5 mile north

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: Finishing the kiosk inventory with a couple hours of daylight remaining, I decided to check the first part of the trail section. The parking lot was cleared of the usual beverage containers. I also discovered and grabbed more rusting beer cans just into the woods. The soft ground revealed that a mountain bike had been ridden up to the railroad tracks. I broke up a fire ring which appeared in a site where none had been in the past four years. Overall the trail section is in good condition.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman

Date: 9/23/2018

Purpose:

Location: Section 7, 0.25 miles trail north from Wilbur Dam Rd

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: There was a small 12" blowdown that had fallen across the third switchback and was blocking two sections of the trail. I made two cuts, one with an axe and the other with a crosscut. I cleared the debris and rebuilt a small section of rock cribbing that had been knocked loose.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 9/24/2018

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 8, US 321 to Wilbur Dam

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We hiked in from Oliver Hollow Road to Wilbur Dam to check the reported blowdowns. We cut and removed two small blowdowns. There was another tree that was hanging over the trail. We cut one part out and then discovered a nest of bees near the tree roots. We had to abandon that task since Becky and Maya got stung. There is still a pretty big blowdown between the shelter and Wilbur Dam Road.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman

Date: 9/24/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 5, Iron Mountain Shelter area

People: Scotty Bowman (SAWS)

Summary: I hiked in to remove a blowdown at about 0.1 of mile north of Iron Mountain Shelter and another that I knew of around Turkey Pen Gap (which I didn't make it to). I did come across the one between the shelter and the spring that was laying down across the trail and was pushing folks off the trail. It was about 18" and required three cuts with the crosscut to clear it off of the trail. During my time, I chatted with quite a few section hikers and a couple of SOBO's.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/25/2018

Purpose: Repair stile and add turnpike

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm and about 3/4 mile North

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Elzear Lemieux, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Tim Stewart

Summary: Two locust posts and two rails in the initial stile at TN 91 were rotted and needed to be replaced. Of course each post had six rails attached to it. We finished by noon. So we used the afternoon to build a 22' turnpike of locust and rocks on the old road about 3/4 mile north of the farm. The low spot has been very muddy for years.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/25/2018

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Rd to Watauga Lake Shelter

People: Joe Morris, Bob Peoples

Summary: Joe and Bob went after the four major reported blowdowns with hand saws. Only the larger one nearer Watauga Lake Shelter was a major challenge. One of the other trees had a yellow jacket nest in the roots. Joe and Bob were stung just like everyone else, including some hikers. But they did take revenge on the bees. Bees are a particular problem along the trail currently. Joe and Bob also cut back the encroaching rhodos on killer hill.

