The Tennessee Eastman
Hiking and Paddling News

April 2019
tehcc.org
Editor – Terry Oldfield

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2019 Roan Naturalist, Sarah Jones

Introduction assembled by Vic Hasler
This is the seventh year having this Roan Naturalist role as a collaborative effort between ATC, SAHC, TEHCC, and USFS to foster appreciation among day users and hikers to the Appalachian Trail and Roan Highlands. The position runs weekends and a few other days between May to August educating the public about “Leave No Trace” ethics to minimize recreational impact.

Sarah grew up in Lee County, Virginia. She completed a B.S. in Environmental Science from UVA-Wise where her junior seminar focused on grassy balds management and the Baatany Goat Project. She’s also a recent graduate from Radford University with a B.S. in Outdoor Leadership. Her primary interests include environmental education, diversity in outdoor recreation, and conservation of public lands. She has experience in herpetology, geology, and dendrology; and is an LNT Trainer and a Wilderness First Responder.

When not in the field, Sarah enjoys indoor rock climbing, traveling, and spending time in her hammock.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Amy Merrell
Marc Tucker
Jeremy Forren
Michael Sink
Charles Givens
Patty Evans
Event Schedule – Next Two Months

For the latest, up-to-date information, see tehcc.org/schedule.
For additional information on APEs/TEHCC paddling events, see http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/category/regional-events/ or http://www.riverapes.org/calendar.html

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<td>Greg Kramer</td>
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Details of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

**TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting** - Now on the Second Thursday of the Month, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
**Contact:** William Werner, 423-229-2253
**Location:** Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN; Bldg 75 Room 402

The Steering Committee guides the general program for the club. The Committee normally meets at lunchtime on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings are open to all TEHCC members. Bring your lunch or grab a bite at the B-75 cafeteria. 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 fellowshipping with other paddlers. 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. 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.

**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.
**Scheduled Events**

**Suwannee River Multi-Day Paddle Trip, April 17 – 21, 2019**  
*Contact: Debbie Briscoe, 423-534-3636*

We will paddle the most beautiful and fun section of the river. There are many springs along the way and historic sites to explore, including a sunken ship. There are also swimming holes and places to snorkel, so bring your dive mask!  
**April 17** is a travel day. For the first night, we will camp at Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park, 3076 95th Dr, Live Oak, FL.  
**April 18** The next morning at 9 am we will meet at Dowling Park Boat Ramp to load boats, set shuttle, then launch. We’ll paddle 9.7 miles to Lafayette Blue Springs State Park (river mile 103.3) and spend the night there. Somewhat primitive camping is available here with plenty of trees and walk-in sites, but there are hand carts to get our gear to the sites. There are bathrooms but no showers.  
**April 19** we’ll paddle 8.3 miles to Peacock Slough River Camp (river mile 95.8). We will be stopping at the Suwannee River Rendezvous along the river to eat lunch at a short order grill. They have ice cream!  
**April 20** we’ll paddle 9.7 miles to Adams Tract River Camp (river mile 85.5), which has the same amenities as Peacock Slough.  
**April 21** we’ll paddle 9.3 miles to the take-out in Branford at Ivey Memorial Park, 614 Ivey Memorial Park Dr, Branford, FL.  

It’s sunny Florida; bring sunscreen. Also a large brimmed hat is helpful. There are poisonous snakes, so watch where you step when you’re close to shore and use your light at night when walking around. Cockpit covers are suggested to keep critters out of your boat overnight and bring bug spray. Have at least one bow or stern line on your boat. For more information, including meal plans and camp fees and amenities, see the trip description at [http://www.riverapes.org/calendar.html](http://www.riverapes.org/calendar.html) or contact Debbie.

**Invasive Plants Removal, Devils Creek Gap, Saturday, April 27, 2019, 8:30 am – 2:00 pm**  
*Contact: Greg Kramer, 423-349-6125*

TEHCC has been working in this location for the past four years to eradicate invasive plants which were imported to the U.S. but can out-compete native species. The first focus was on Garlic Mustard, imported to be a salad green, that readily spreads as the seeds attach to clothes and animal fur, and thus are dropped in new locations. The plants are easily pulled; however, the seed bed requires multiple annual treatments to exhaust. We'll remove any new plants that have emerged or were overlooked. The second objective, started last year, is chemical treatment of Autumn or Russian Olive, which is a large shrub imported to provide food and cover for birds. However, it crowds out native foliage. We will be cutting Autumn Olive and painting their stems with herbicide to keep the plants from growing back from their roots. Let’s leave from Colonial Heights at 8:30 am to arrive at Devil's Creek Gap by 9:30 am. Current plans are to work until 1 pm. Matt Drury is scouting out other nearby sites if we are quickly successful in knocking out both of these tasks in Devils Creek Gap. In case of inclement weather, a back-up date of Tuesday, April 30th has been selected.

**Doe River Cleanup, Saturday, May 11, 2019, 9:00 am**

With summer right around the corner, and everyone starting to get out and play, we are having a massive Doe River Cleanup. Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs), Overmountain Chapter Trout Unlimited, and NeTREP's AmeriCorps member, Erica, have partnered to bring you a fun cleanup day along the Doe on Saturday, May 11th from 9-12 pm. The cleanup will focus on two different areas of the River, the Upper Doe and the Lower Doe, to give everyone a chance to join in on the event. Overmountain Trout Unlimited will lead volunteers along the Doe River Fishing Trail (DRiFT) section of the Upper Doe (Happy Trails Parking area to Bear Cage Rd). Volunteers should meet at Roan Mountain Community Park at 9 am to determine placement. APEs will lead volunteers along the Lower Doe section (Green Bridge Landing to the Covered Bridge). Volunteers should meet at Green Bridge Landing at 9 am to determine placement. Both locations will have trash bags and gloves on site for volunteers, but feel free to bring your own gloves if you would like. Also, be sure to bring plenty of water and wear appropriate clothing (long pants, sturdy shoes). At 12 pm after the cleanup, we invite our volunteers to meet us back at Roan Mountain Community Park for a wood-fired pizza lunch to thank you for your hard work! We welcome all to join us, so please come out to help us keep the Doe River beautiful!

**Summer Kickoff, Featuring Paddle School, May 18-19, 2019**  
*Contact: Steven Adams*

This is a two day event May 18th and 19th at USA Raft in Erwin, TN. We are offering Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced white water classes to help you learn or refine your skills under certified instructors in a safe environment. We also offer a chance for experienced paddlers to gather for river trips, support class trips, and compete in friendly races and skills challenges. Pre-registration cost is $40 before May 13 for all TEHCC members and includes access to all classes, Saturday night dinner, ACA insurance for class participants, and river shuttles for the Nolichucky. Please visit [http://www.riverapes.org/summer-kickoff.html](http://www.riverapes.org/summer-kickoff.html) for more information or contact Stevenadams@eastman.com for applications/information.

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**For the Record**

Nothing to report this month. See Maintenance Reports below.
A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Eric Middlemas  
Date: 2/17/2019  
Purpose: Clear blowdown  
Location: Section 18, Approx. one mile north of Indian Grave Gap  
People: Eric Middlemas, James Price  
Summary: We removed a large blowdown about one mile north of Indian Grave Gap.

Reporting: Saylor Fox  
Date: 2/19/2019  
Purpose: Hike entire section to inspect for maintenance required  
Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Cloudland Hotel  
People: Saylor Fox, Bettye Boone  
Summary: We hiked and inspected the entire section looking for blowdowns on the trail and other maintenance needs. We checked signage, picked up trash, and checked the shelter and water source. We left a new log book at the shelter.

Reporting: David Ramsey  
Date: 2/24/2019  
Purpose: Blazing, brushing, blowdown removal, cribbing  
Location: Section 19a, Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap Shelter  
People: David Ramsey, Rob Horn  
Summary: We worked a half-day Sunday (due to time constraints we both had) to begin re-blazing the section. We got roughly a third done because we decided to remove the large log over the trail near a wash-through about a mile in from Indian Grave Gap. The downhill edge of the trail at the site of this log is extremely soft and was easily loosened from our activity; therefore we cribbed about 7 feet of the edge to shore it up a bit. As someone (Scouts?) recently cut more of the rhodo back on my section, the main thing left to do is finish re-blazing and remove the old junk below the wash-through, which will be done in the next week or so. Hikers reported blowdowns on 19b, but didn’t remember exactly where.

Reporting: Greg Kramer  
Date: 2/25/2019  
Purpose: Evaluate Trail  
Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter  
People: Greg Kramer  
Summary: The trip was an in-and-out to check the shelter and condition of the trail to determine what maintenance needed to be done. I left 13 blowdowns as step-overs; all other limbs and brush were removed. The shelter is in good shape, but I'm worried about a tree south of the shelter; the top was blown out and it looks worse for wear. It's not a hazard tree, but needs to be dealt with in a year or so. I located the weedy areas along the trail. The trail overall was in great shape. The waterbars need cleaning; but with all the recent rains, only one area had water on the trail.

Reporting: Kat Johnson  
Date: 2/25/2019  
Purpose: Clear trail  
Location: Section 12a, Walnut Mountain Road to 1.4 miles north  
People: Kat Johnson, Kim Peters  
Summary: The goal was to check and/or remove reported blowdown. We attempted to access the trail from Bitter End, but the gate was closed. We started at Walnut Mountain Rd and cleared the trail, except for one large blowdown 0.2 miles in. We turned around at 1.4 miles due to the trail being flooded and swampy. I will need to go back with proper digging tools etc, as it will need draining, rehabbing, and water diversion of some sort.

Reporting: Eric Middlemas  
Date: 2/25/2019  
Purpose: Spring maintenance  
Location: Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to Deep Gap  
People: Eric Middlemas, Judy Middlemas, Lana Scott, Pat Kenney, Rich Ritter, Everlyn Hicks, Sharon Begley, Jeannine Edwards, Wayne Jones, Bruce Darby, David Douthet
Summary: We performed general spring maintenance. We cleared around 30 waterbars and cut back woody growth, especially between Beauty Spot and Indian Grave Gap. This section of the trail is in excellent condition.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman
Date: 2/26/2019
Purpose: Remove blowdowns
Location: Section 6, Iron Mountain Shelter to Turkey Pen Gap
People: Scotty Bowman (SAWS)
Summary: I hiked in on Monday 2/25/19 in the afternoon with the plan of working the next day starting at Iron Mountain Shelter and going as far as I could. I made it as far as Turkey Pen Gap and that stretch is all clear. In total I cleared 9 large treetops and a bunch of smaller limb tangles. I also cut another 7 blowdowns. Turkey Pen Gap was a mess and I cleared it. This is where I stopped for the day and headed back to camp.

Reporting: Joe Morris
Date: 2/27/2019
Purpose: Rehab Trail
Location: Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats
People: Joe Morris, Tim Stewart
Summary: We rehabbed 30 feet of trail where a blowdown rootball had destroyed the trail. We also removed a large blowdown.

Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: 2/27/2019
Purpose: Clear blowdowns, stabilize Trail, and brush
Location: Section 11b, Bitter End to about 4 miles North
People: Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Tony Messina, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart
Summary: We cut back rhodos from Bitter End to Hardcore Cascades. We cleared about 17 blowdowns of 6" to 15". Richard as Sawyer and Tony as swamper got to about a mile S of Moreland Gap Shelter. We rehabbed three minor sloughing sections by redigging trail and reinstalled a sign at Hardcore Cascades. And most importantly we were able to reposition, with rock bars and rope pulley hoist, one of the key stepping stones which had become unstable. We reinforced it and several other steps with additional rocks. The cascades were beautiful and the water was cold.

Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: 2/27/2019
Purpose: Clear blowdowns, stabilize Trail, and brush
Location: Section 12a, Bitter End to about 2 miles South
People: Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters
Summary: Phyllis and Kim continued clearing the northern end of the section, including cutting back rhodos. Only remaining blowdown is a large dead pine about 1.5 north of Walnut Mtn Rd. Hikers can get over it, but it needs to be improved.

Reporting: Richard Lott
Date: 2/27/2019
Purpose: Clear blowdowns
Location: Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mountain Road
People: Richard Lott, Ed Brooks
Summary: We hiked trail south from Bitter End 1.4 miles. We cleared four 6-10" diameter blowdowns near ground level and one overhead in route to/from the main target near Laurel Fork. The main target was to cut a tangle of about a half dozen trees of 8-10" diameter. We hiked back to Bitter End and then drove to the Walnut Mountain Rd trailhead and hiked trail north 0.2 miles to remove a previously reported 9" blowdown. We then hiked trail north another 0.3 miles to check for other blowdowns, but trail was clear.

Reporting: Dean Baird
Date: 2/28/2019
Purpose: Trail Maintenance
Location: Section 9b, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail
People: Curtis Baird, Dean Baird
Summary: Overall the trail appeared to be in good condition considering the severity of the flood. One area near a creekside campsite has a section of trail deepened by floodwaters; we plan to go back and fill it in with sand. We removed two small blowdowns and removed a significant amount of trash.
Reporting: Dean Baird  
Date: 3/2/2019  
Purpose: Repair trail  
Location: Section 9b, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail  
People: Dean Baird  
Summary: Adjacent to one of the large campsites where the trail is close to the creek, floodwaters had wiped out most of the trail. I placed rocks where the trail was located, then filled in with sand from a large pile that was very fortunately deposited on the trail by the flood. The trail is good here now ...until it floods again.

Reporting: Greg Kramer  
Date: 3/3/2019  
Purpose: Prepare for scout trip  
Location: Section 19a, Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap Shelter  
People: Greg Kramer  
Summary: I checked out the trail for an upcoming Boy Scout outing on 3/17. We'll go in near the campground and split up there.

Reporting: Eric Middlemas  
Date: 3/4/2019  
Purpose: Remove blowdowns  
Location: Section 15b, Hughes Gap to Ash Gap  
People: Pat Kenney, Rich Ritter  
Summary: We removed about 48 blowdowns between Hughes Gap and Ash Gap using hand saws. There are 14 larger blowdowns remaining in this section that were too large for handsaws.

Reporting: Carl Fritz  
Date: 3/7/2019  
Purpose: Remove blowdowns  
Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Road to Canute Place  
People: Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples  
Summary: It was a very long day for these maintainers who drew the short straws as compared to the crew who worked on the next southern section. There were many blowdowns and branches. The Trail is passable now. One tree may take some more attention. About 3/4 mile S of Dennis Cove is a nearby stream. A down tree redirected the stream onto the trail and has washed hundreds of feet of trail away; so rehab will be necessary.

Reporting: Carl Fritz  
Date: 3/7/2019  
Purpose: Remove blowdowns  
Location: Section 11b, Canute Place to Bitter End, Both ends for almost 2 miles  
People: Dean Baird, Carl Fritz, Renee Messina, Tony Messina, Tim Stewart  
Summary: There were many broken laurel and rhodos, plus branches. The largest blowdown was about 12" and we were able to remove them all with hand saws. Moreland Gap Shelter is in good shape. Tim replaced the trail register. This section is in good shape.

We again entertained a couple of local dogs from Bitter End. They are very friendly and looking for an adventure. They followed Tony and Renee in at Bitter End. Eventually, they took up with some hikers headed north. The huskee eventually caught up with Tim, Dean, and Carl who had gone in at Moreland Gap Shelter and headed north to Canute Place. So the huskee hiked in seven miles and then followed the truck another seven miles back to Bitter End. He had enough and eased home for a food bowl and bed.

Reporting: Steve Perri  
Date: 3/8/2019  
Purpose: Southern Regional Partnership Meeting  
Location: Black Mountain, NC  
People: Vic Hasler, Steve Perri  
Summary: Vic and I attended the Southern Partnership Committee (RPC) Meeting held each spring bringing together the clubs from the Virginia Region and Southern Region along with ATC, Appalachian NP, and the USFS representatives from GA through VA. Significant policies are reviewed and approved in this forum along with communication of events and issues that affect the work groups. At this meeting, a new A.T. experience management system of zones was presented along with a recent RPC survey of the effectiveness of the meeting format, and ATC's restructuring of one of the regions as a pilot study. Clubs provided input for the new strategic plan which will cover 2019-2021. TEHCC requested 2 weeks of Konnarock crew time for 2024, which was approved by the committee. Clubs are still working on completing and getting approval of their Local Management Plans, MOUs, and Volunteer Service Agreements. TEHCC has completed all of these except the Local Management Plan for which we are currently seeking ATC and USFS signatures. This was Steve's last meeting as Chair of the Committee with a new chair taking over at the annual membership meeting in September.
Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: 3/8/2019
Purpose: Design Cherry Gap Shelter (Section 17)
Location: Elizabethton High School
People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples
Summary: We met with 19 students and 4 teachers or administrators. We shared some of the necessary and desired features of a replacement shelter for Cherry Gap. They are hoping to work through some design concepts as four teams, interact and come up with a preferred design. They plan to have a final design with detailed drawings and material list by the end of the semester.

Reporting: Joel Zabel
Date: 3/9/2019
Purpose: Clear blowdowns
Location: Sections 17 and 18, Indian Grave Gap to Low Gap
People: Jim Foster, Marcia Pruner, Denny Samuel, Ed Brading, Yong Li, Barry Yeh, Joy Zabel, Joel Zabel
Summary: Our enthusiastic crew cleared numerous blowdowns, the largest being 12". We were able to cut them all with hand saws. We also cleaned water diversions and cut back encroaching vegetation.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman (SAWS)
Date: 3/11/2019
Purpose: Routine Maintenance
Location: Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd
People: Scotty Bowman
Summary: It was a sunny day when I headed out, but Big Laurel Branch never fails to switch it up. As I reached the ridgeline, the sky turned gray and it started to sprinkle. It was still a good day to be out. The plan was to cut back rhodo in several spots between Wilbur Dam Rd and Vandeventer. I made it as far as the spring at 3.3 miles. Along the way, I cleared a cluster of 3 small trees that had been working their way down since last summer. They finally came down to head level and I cut them out with a hand saw.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick
Date: 3/11/2019
Purpose: Remove blowdowns
Location: Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US 19E, lower section
People: Kevin Sedgwick, Eric Yakel (RoboCop)
Summary: I took advantage of Eric visiting to get out and remove some blowdowns. There were more down than when I came through last time. We cleared 16 trees ranging in size from 6" to 30" in diameter. Some required multiple cuts. We met two thru-hikers; first of the season for me.

Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: 3/13/2019
Purpose: Rehab trail
Location: Section 11a, Up to one mile North of Dennis Cove
Summary: The crew installed many rock water diversions and some stepping stones for crossing streams during heavy rains. Hundreds of feet of trail were badly washed due to recent rains and some blowdowns were diverting water onto the trail. The trail is in good shape now and should heal some with time. We also removed a problem broken tree that was still standing by using a rope come-along. And we rehabbed a rooty steep area by installing rock steps and rock cribbing.
Reporting: Greg Kramer  
Date: 3/15/2019  
Purpose: Checkout shortcut for Scout trip  
Location: Section 19a, Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap Shelter  
People: Greg Kramer  
Summary: I trimmed and marked a route from the road to the campsite for a large group of Scouts; outing on the 17th.

Reporting: Kim Peters  
Date: 3/16/2019  
Purpose: Spring walk-through  
Location: Section 16b, Greasy Creek Gap to Iron Mountain Gap  
People: Phyllis Cairnes, Randy Waymire, Kelly Seeger, Lori Mirrer, Kim Peters  
Summary: The first 3rd-Saturday trip of 2019 was a great success. Four hardy volunteers showed up on a very cold morning to work on the A.T. The main task was to clean water diversions between Iron Mtn Gap and Weedy Gap. There were 31 of them in this two-mile stretch! Lori, Randy and Kim worked diligently to clean out the debris that had accumulated over the winter so that they can function to protect the treadway. Phyllis and Kelly hiked out to Greasy Creak Gap and back, scouting for blowdowns. Surprisingly, they only found two, both within a mile and a half of Greasy Creek Gap. One was a large dead tree which is easily walked around and the other was mostly the top of a tree. They cleared smaller limbs from the latter one and it is now also easily walked around. We also removed the flagging from the first three, now abandoned, relocations on this section.

Although we had plenty of sunshine all day, the temperature remained low and the wind was quite cold and unpleasant up on the ridge. We saw only three hikers all day but nonetheless, when we got back to Iron Mtn Gap, there was a van there hoping to provide “trail magic” to the non-existent hikers in that cold and windy gap. Much thanks to all the volunteers, and a big welcome to first time volunteer, Kelly Seeger, as well as Randy Waymire, a returning volunteer who last participated in August of 2014.

Reporting: Dan Firth  
Date: 3/16/2019  
Purpose: Section Maintenance  
Location: Section 4a, US 421 to Double Springs Shelter  
People: Dan Firth  
Summary: I enjoyed a brisk and breezy day cleaning waterbars. I reinstalled the waterbar at Double Spring Shelter after it was burned for firewood. I also installed a new waterbar between the shelter and the top of the gap to divert more of the water before it gets to the shelter. I encountered three section hikers and three day hikers.

Reporting: Greg Kramer  
Date: 3/17/2019  
Purpose: Cut rhododendrons  
Location: Section 19a, Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap Shelter  
Summary: The main purpose of the trip was to cut back rhododendrons. Three large blowdowns were cut between the campground and the shelter.

Reporting: Phyllis Cairnes  
Date: 3/19/2019  
Purpose: Maintain shelter  
Location: Section 2b, Abingdon Gap Shelter to McQueen's Gap Abingdon Gap shelter  
People: Kim Peters, Phyllis Cairnes  
Summary: We had lots of sunshine, although cold at Low Gap, but we soon warmed up. At the shelter, we replaced a missing log book, cleaned out guttering, hauled out trash, and shoveled out the fire ring. We took paint, but it was too cold to do touch-up or paint the graffiti board. We saw two hikers, one of whom was a northbound thru-hiker from SC. Interestingly, the trail between McQueen's Gap Rd and the shelter had been prepared for a prescribed burn. At least two dead trees had been taken down and leaves were cleared from the trail. The burn is scheduled for this week—we were lucky it was not today.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold  
Date: 3/20/2019  
Purpose: Routine Maintenance  
Location: Section 8, US 321 to Wilbur Road  
People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder  
Summary: We hiked in from Oliver Hollow Road toward the shelter to take care of a big tree that had been previously cut and rolled onto the trail. Then we headed north of the iron gate to cut back weeds and brush. There is a mid-size tree about 50 inches in diameter, down near the trail head parking lot on US 321. There is a poison on the tree. We tried to remove most of it. There was minimal trash.
Reporting: Carl Fritz  
Date: 3/20/2019  
Purpose: Remove blowdowns  
Location: Section 12a, Walnut Mountain Road to 1.5 mi North  
People: Elzear Lemieux, Joe Morris  
Summary: Joe and Elzear removed a 9-inch, head-high blowdown and primarily the 2' plus dead pine (pictured below) with a handsaw, axe and rock bar. The southern part of this section is in good shape.

Reporting: Carl Fritz  
Date: 3/20/2019  
Purpose: Remove blowdowns and rehab  
Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Mountaineer Falls Shelter  
People: Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, William "JB" Wilson  
Summary: Kevin and Tim cleared blowdowns and branches from Walnut Mtn Rd to Mountaineer Falls Shelter. They removed many branches and chainsawed ten trees. One blowdown was a tangle of grape vines and hikers could not get through or around easily. The rest of the crew replaced about six rotting oak steps with locust steps and added about two more steps. The northern part of this trail section from the shelter to Walnut Mtn Rd is good. We saw two thru-hikers in the afternoon.

Reporting: Jim Foster  
Date: 3/20/2019  
Purpose: Check trail and clean waterbars  
Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap  
People: Bruce Darby, Jim Foster  
Summary: It was a long, hard day of hand-cutting and cleaning the trail. We cleared 7 blowdowns and there are 5 left that will need to be cut by a chainsaw. We encountered several thru-hikers and a large group of college kids from upstate New York on spring break.

Reporting: Gerald Scott  
Date: 3/22/2019  
Purpose: Routine Maintenance  
Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Sugar Hollow Creek  
People: Gerald Scott, Harold Wexler, Eric Scott
Summary: Thanks to the Thursday crew’s outing on 3/20/19 the trail from Walnut Mountain Road to Mountaineer Falls Shelter was in good shape. We concentrated mostly on trail from the shelter to Sugar Hollow Creek. We removed several smaller blowdowns and many dead branches and tree tops mostly from dying pines. Thankfully, there were no larger blowdowns that we couldn’t remove. We lopped back encroaching rhododendrons, and cleaned out waterbars and about 30 ft. of the drainage trench alongside of the trail on the old road. We saw 7 thru-hikers. I was happy to have my son Eric join us for his first maintenance outing.

Reporting: Michael Watts
Date: 3/22/2019
Purpose: Remove blowdowns
Location: Section 15b, Cloudland Hotel to Hughes Gap
People: Michael Watts, Greg Kramer
Summary: It was a winter wonderland on Roan Mountain, with a couple inches of snow and trees covered with rime ice. We removed more than two dozen blowdowns. Greg did outstanding chainsaw work.

Reporting: Greg Kramer
Date: 3/23/2019
Purpose: Clear blowdowns
Location: Section 1, TN/VA state line to Backbone Rock Trail, and Blue-Blaze Trail
People: Greg Kramer, Michael Watt
Summary: This was the return trip to finish blowdowns from McQueen Gap to State Line. We removed the two blowdowns left from last time. We cleared a blowdown of 2, 10" Locust trees and a 6" grapevine near where the blue-blaze comes onto the A.T. We also cleared 6 blowdowns on the blue-blaze trail to backbone rock.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield
Date: 3/24/2019
Purpose: Maintain shelter
Location: Section 4b, TN91 to Double Springs Shelter
People: John Frey, Terry Oldfield
Summary: We hiked to Double Springs Shelter from TN 91. The trail is in excellent condition with only a couple of items to note. The barb wire fence next to the stile at the edge of the woods was taken down, apparently by the USFS for access to a prescribed burn. Also, there is a large blowdown (about 14" diameter) across the trail close to 2 miles in from TN 91 (before the camping area on the right). At the shelter, we picked up trash, cleaned the gutter, shoveled out the firepit, and left a new log book. Since we carried in the blue-blaze paint, we refreshed the last blaze near the water source, although all the blazes look great. So far there’s no graffiti on the shelter, only on the graffiti board. Lots of hikers were out on this beautiful day.

Reporting: David Ramsey
Date: 3/26/2019
Purpose: Remove discarded appliances
Location: Section 19a, Ephraim Place Road near Indian Grave Gap
People: David Ramsey, Mark Ramsey, Joe Green
Summary: We returned Tuesday to remove a TV, washer, and water heater that had been thrown down from Ephraim Place Rd and lay about 70 yards below the Trail. There remains a large stuffed chair at the same spot, which we will remove ASAP.