



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

July 2019

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

Editor – [Terry Oldfield](#)

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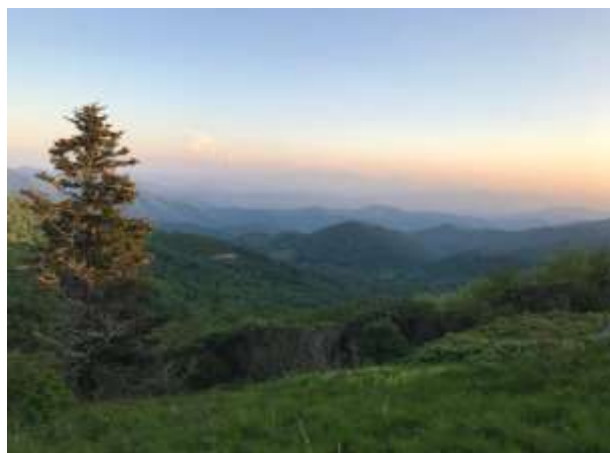
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Early  
Morning  
View from  
the Roan  
Highlands

*Photo by  
Sarah Jones*



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## Summer Hiking Program

*Submitted by: Jonathan Shumaker*

This summer we are hoping to get together and take advantage of the many great hiking opportunities in our area. We are hoping to have a hike on most weekends throughout the summer. The hikes will vary in length, difficulty, and scenery. The schedule on the website will be kept up to date with the latest information on hikes. We will also try to start using the events section of the website to allow people to add comments and questions or create their own event if they are interested in leading a hike. We hope to see you out on the trail this summer! If you want more information, or are interested in leading hikes this summer, let Jonathan know! He can be contacted at [jonathanshumaker@eastman.com](mailto:jonathanshumaker@eastman.com) or by phone at work: 423-229-1996 or cell: 417-389-6987.

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## Call for Volunteers for FunFest Moonlight Hike, July 18, 2019

*Submitted by: [Jonathan Shumaker](#), 423-229-1996*

Since before 1993, TEHCC has been co-sponsoring the Kingsport FunFest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park. The hike itself kicks off at the dam near the visitors' center. Bring your own flashlight/headlamp (and spare batteries), water, insect repellent, and charged cell phone. We'll start at the front of the walkers, and then be assigned specific intersections to direct the traffic along the right path. Overall, TEHCC needs to cover roughly a dozen places with one or two people each. The hike will start at 8:00 pm, so we will want to show up 30 minutes to an hour before that. The hike will be on Thursday night, July 18<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in volunteering or getting more information, please contact Jonathan at [jonathanshumaker@eastman.com](mailto:jonathanshumaker@eastman.com) or 423-229-1996.

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## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Vasudev Bhonde

Nathaniel Fugate

Elton Luong

Michael Creighton

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## Initial Field Notes from 2019 Roan Naturalist

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*Created by Vic Hasler from Sarah Jones's first three weekly reports*

The Roan Naturalist, a role created by partnership of ATC, SAHC, TEHCC, and USFS, provides personal education to visitors of the Roan Highlands. In addition, Sarah Jones gives close, regular monitoring of the general area and Appalachian Trail to alert agencies to new issues, thus enabling mitigation efforts. The following are her early field observations.

- Sarah saw the power of the Rhododendron. Many interpretive conversations in early June are about “the purple ones” (Catawba Rhododendron) and “the orange ones” (Flame Azalea). The visitors would then relay the proper common names to their friends and others enjoying the spectacle. Unfortunately, rhododendron bloomed a one and a half weeks early, so hard rains knocked off the blooms – shortening this year’s viewing season and occurring before the festival.
- The rare Gray’s Lily became the conversation during subsequent weekends with instruction to stay back eight feet to avoid spreading fungal spores across the scattered population. Unfortunately, some who were instructed chose to not care.
- Multiple events use the parking at Carvers Gap: Roan Groan bike race finish line, SAHC June Jamboree, Rhododendron Festival, day hikers, backpacking crews, and more. The parking lots and roadside can fill up fast leaving little room for those arriving later, with people and vehicles attempting to share the highway from both directions. USFS acted during the festival, deploying traffic cones and two USFS Law Enforcement to help with the parking issue, which made a difference.
- The partner organizations coordinated to address social trails causing damage to the sensitive landscape. Signs on wooden stakes were placed at frequently-used social trails, while a larger fence structure and signs were employed for a large social/bootleg trail running parallel to the A.T. from just before Jane Bald to Grassy Ridge.
- The intervention by USFS at Roan Hight Knob Shelter to reduce campsite sprawl using flagging and signs has been noticeably effective. There is no evidence of campsites or fire rings outside the designated areas.
- Finally, overuse of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park is diverting some who are active in the outdoors to the Roans, where the large number of visitors is adversely changing the landscape. More active management of this front country experience is required during peak summer use.



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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 additional information on APES/TEHCC paddling events, see <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/category/regional-events/> or <http://www.riverapes.org/calendar.html>

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
July 5-7	Nolichucky Camping and Paddle Weekend	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
July 11	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	<a href="#">William Werner</a>	423-229-2253
July 13	Bi-Weekly Lower Watauga River Trip (Class I-II)	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
July 18	FunFest Moonlight Hike, 6:30 pm	<a href="#">Jonathan Shumaker</a>	423-229-1996
July 19-21	Hiwassee River Paddle Weekend	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
July 20	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a>	423-336-0128
August 3	Rocky Fork Beaver Workday, 10 am	<a href="#">Tim Pharis</a>	
August 8	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	<a href="#">William Werner</a>	423-229-2253
August 17	A.T.: Tanyard Gap to Rich Mountain Firetower	<a href="#">Vic Hasler</a>	423-239-0388
August 17	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a>	423-336-0128
August 17	Nolichucky Gorge 1 <sup>st</sup> Timer’s River Trip and Picnic	<a href="#">Wesley Bradley</a>	423-647-1321
August 31	“Babes on the Waves” Pigeon River Trip	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636

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## Details of Upcoming Events

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### Recurring Events

#### **TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting - 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 fellowshiping 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, \[atvolunteer@tehcc.org\]\(mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org\)](#)

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 133.8-mile section each week, usually on Thursdays.

#### **Thursday Evenings, Paddle to the Grill, 6:30 pm – 10:30 pm**

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

Each week we will be alternating between Boone Lake Marina, 452 Sportsman Dock Rd, Piney Flats, TN and Davis Marina (Boonies Restaurant), 641 Buffalo Rd, Blountville, TN. Bring your touring kayak/canoe to meet with The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts ([www.riverapes.org](http://www.riverapes.org)) and TEHCC ([www.tehcc.org](http://www.tehcc.org)). We will launch within 30 minutes of the meeting time to paddle 3 miles to the restaurant or to a place to have a picnic, which takes about an hour. We'll have dinner and social hour, then paddle back under the stars. As we may be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat and a head light for when we land. PFD's and Stern Lights are TWRA Regulation. If you aren't on the contact list, call for the location each week.

#### **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 (July 13 and 27, Aug 10 and 24) 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 and see 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 back 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 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

### Nolichucky Camping and Paddle Weekend, July 5-7, 2019

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

NOLI is teaming up with the APEs to have a camping and paddling weekend on the Upper and Lower Nolichucky! The camp-out is on Survival Island where NOLI teaches their survival and map/compass classes. Meet at USA Raft Nolichucky, 2 Jones Branch Rd, Erwin, TN.

For the camp-out and paddle trip, bring some food to share for dinner. Be prepared to wade across the creek to get to the island; so it is best to have your camping gear in a backpack or large carry bag. Also, bring a camp chair. Friday evening we'll meet to get set-up in camp and settle in. Non-campers can meet us Saturday morning at 11 am in the USA Raft parking lot where we will organize the shuttles, then hit the river! Sunday morning you can join us for another run or go home, the choice is yours. Contact Debbie for the head count if you plan to camp and to make sure there is enough parking space.

### Hiwassee River Paddle Weekend, July 19-21, 2019

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

A weekend on the Hiwassee River! We're planing to drive down on Friday afternoon and camp at Gee Creek Campground (404 Spring Creek Rd, Delano, TN). It is a very nice facility with full amenities. Saturday, we'll meet at the put-in at 12:00 noon, load up, and convoy from the campground. We'll find a place to eat that evening after hot showers back at the campground. A campfire will be great afterwards and I'm bringing s'mores!! On Sunday, we'll either paddle another run or drive home, it's up to you!

Campground: <http://www.stateparks.com/hiwassee.html>

### Rocky Fork Beaver Workday, Saturday, August 3, 2019, 10 am – 4 pm

Contact: [Tim Pharis](#)

DescriptionThe APEs are teaming up with the State Park crew to help clean-out wood and strainers from this beautiful, little, steep creek for safer paddling. The Rocky Fork (Class III-V) has been frequently paddled by many creek boaters over the last few decades, but storms in recent years have filled the creek with many fallen trees. The State Park Staff want to remedy this situation with a workday with whitewater paddlers to prepare the creek for the upcoming creeking season. This is also a great way to scout the creek run at low water!

Meet at Rocky Fork State Park main parking lot, 501 Rocky Fork Rd, Flag Pond, with work gloves, clothes and shoes that can get dirty and wet, safety glasses, water, and snacks. The Park will have helmets and some gloves to loan out. Due to State Park legal oversight, only park staff can operate chainsaws. Paddlers/volunteers will swamp brush and clear cut wood. The park will provide hand operated as well as truck winches to help drag out the big stuff. Please Register for the event so Rocky Fork State Park know how many volunteers to expect. For further information click [here](#) or contact Park Ranger Tim Pharis, [Tim.Pharis@TN.gov](mailto:Tim.Pharis@TN.gov).

### A.T.: Tanyard Gap to Rich Mountain Firetower, Saturday, August 17, 2019

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

Rating: *Medium 5-mile round-trip hike with 1400' climb*

This hike is rescheduled from June 8<sup>th</sup>. Predicted heavy thunderstorms for June 8<sup>th</sup> materialized by afternoon. Hiking on a wet trail is not good due to the risk of slips and falls for individuals - and significant erosion for the tread. Let's hope for better weather in August.

The historic firetower was restored last year, with partial funding from the TN A.T. license plate program, allowing continued enjoyment of the great views. This hike travels the Appalachian Trail up and back from Tanyard Gap with a fair amount of elevation gain.

Let's leave from Colonial Heights (now Ingles parking area) at 8 am for the roughly 1½ hour drive towards Hot Springs. Please let the hike leader know of your interest as stops in Greeneville or Johnson City to carpool can determine our route. Otherwise meet in the parking area at Tanyard Gap (US25/70 overpass) by 9:30 am. We'll hike north-bound on the Appalachian Trail at a steady pace until the firetower is reached. Sturdy footwear and hiking poles are recommended.

Pack a lunch/snack plus plenty of water to stay hydrated. Plan to be back at the vehicles before the afternoon heat arrives, thus back home by mid-to-late afternoon (possible an ice cream stop). For further information and to let us know of your interest, please call/e-mail the hike leader.





## **APEs Nolichucky Gorge 1st Timer's River Trip and Picnic, Saturday August 17, 2019**

Contacts: [Wesley Bradley](#) 423-647-1321 and [Debbie Briscoe](#) 423-534-3636

11:00 am: Noli Gorge Trip (Class III/IV) led by Wesley R. Bradley and Jennifer Bradley

12:00 pm: Lower Noli Trip (USA Raft Outpost to Sawmill – Class I-II) led by Debbie Briscoe

6:00 pm: Catered Picnic

### Nolichucky Gorge River Trip

Please be mindful of the water level for the day and your whitewater skill set. Also ensure you bring a whitewater boat suitable for the river conditions. We will have the trip from 250 – 3,000 CFS. Low water flow (<600 CFS) will be more technical with a creek like feel and broaches will occur more often without good boat control. Higher water flow (1,200+ CFS) will be more pushy, swims can be long, and boat/gear loss can occur. To ensure the safety of all participants on this trip, we will require 1st-timers to execute a few basic paddling maneuvers, practice rolls, and self rescues at the put-in before we head down the river.

Meet at the USA Raft Outpost (2 Jones Branch Rd, Erwin) at 11:00 am. USA Raft will shuttle our group up to the put-in using one of their raft buses and a boat trailer (cost: \$5.00). This will make our logistics for shuttling very easy and our cars will be waiting for us back at the take out when we get off the river!

### Lower Nolichucky Trip

Plan to play a lot and maybe even stop and go swimming with a snack break included to make it a fun day on the lower!

Meet at the USA Raft Outpost at 12:00 pm to set shuttle for the Lower Noli trip.

### APEs Picnic

Meet at the USA Raft Outpost at 6:00 pm. We will be at the large screened porch with kitchen.

This is our last big “get together” for the year. We will have tasty food catered by Barberitos at USA Raft when we get off the river! Please feel free to bring any side dishes or deserts to share with the group.

If you are an APES member, the meal will be free. Non-APES members can chow down with us for \$10.00 per person (includes APES membership!). We will also provide water and sweet tea at the picnic. If you wish to bring adult beverages to the picnic, USA Raft has asked that you drink them from a cup (NO glass or cans). You may also want to bring a folding chair due to limited seating.

### What to bring:

- \$5.00 per person for shuttle, if running Noli Gorge
- Appropriate whitewater boat, paddle and gear that you own (Yes, I will sing the song while we are loading!)
- \$10.00 per person to eat at picnic if you're not an APES member.
- Folding chair for picnic
- Feel free to bring side dish or dessert to share at picnic.

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

- Full name
- River running section (Gorge or Lower)
- Are you a first timer on the run?
- Are you eating at picnic meal?

Please e-mail, text, or message Wesley R. Bradley with your RSVP by 8/15/2019.

## **“Babes on the Waves” Pigeon River Run, Saturday, August 31, 2019**

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

The Annual “Babes On The Waves” River Run on the Pigeon River! We're making it a double trip on the Pigeon River again this year, staggering an Upper and Lower run! For the Upper trip (Class III) meet Donna Kestner, at 11:15 at Smokey Mtn River Rat Whitewater, 3630 Hartford Rd, Hartford, TN. The Lower trip (Class I-II), led by Debbie Briscoe, will meet at 3:00 at NOC, 3485 Hartford Rd. After we're off the river, we can all go out to eat. Once a year, all the female APETTES come together to rule the river. All are welcome, even you guys who don't want to be left out; we don't discriminate. But it's our day and we want to get as many female paddlers out on the water as we can! So all you gals out there, plan to join us on the water.

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## **For the Record**

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### **The Channels Natural Area Preserve, Saturday, June 15, 2019**

*Tim Schaefer reporting*

We had an excellent turnout comprised largely of members of a local Cub Scout Pack and a Great Body Company (GBC) morning workout group tipped off by member Barry Griggs. It was a beautiful day offering both great hiking weather and clear skies for amazing views. The kids and adults loved exploring the mazes and then trying to find dropped off lunch packs and the way out. Due to the age range (as young as four and never carried) we fairly quickly split into two groups, the fast team and the team with

children. The team with children was back in Kingsport by mid-afternoon; I think the fast team beat us by around one hour. On this hike we had 18 participants: Schaefer Family, Hamilton Family, Lick Family, Charlie Outlaw, Barry Griggs, and members of a GBC workout group.

## Coon Den Falls Hike, Saturday, June 22, 2019

*Andy Steffan reporting*



The picture shown on the left is reality vs the expectation on the right. The reality picture doesn't do the falls justice. We were extremely fortunate to hike this after an incredibly powerful storm came through the night before. We debated cancelling the hike all-together, but figured we'd at least drive out and see what the conditions were like. The first few steps of the hike onto the A.T. were underwater, but a few very helpful Boy Scout leaders from Fuquay-Varina, NC helped us out by informing us of a short spur that they took to get around the water. The 2.5-mile, relatively steep, hike was beautiful and uneventful to the falls. We stopped for water breaks at several overlooks to rest from the steamy/humid weather that the storm had left behind. Upon arrival at the falls, we couldn't get as close as we would have liked due to the sheer amount of water coming off the falls, but it was

certainly a sight to behold! It was even hard to get a photo without the camera lens misting over. On the short one-mile hike back, the rain started began to fall, but rain jackets prevented us from getting too soaked.



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## A.T. Maintenance Reports

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Jeff Siirola, TEHCC's Maintenance Data Keeper, reports that on June 27, 2019 the 6000th event was entered into the computerized TEHCC A.T. Maintenance Database since its inauguration January 1, 2000 (19.5 years).

The totals are:

6000 Events

6089 Individual Maintainers

226,668 Volunteer Hours

Based on the value of volunteers, specified by the A.T. License Plate grant, this represents \$4.5M of volunteer time!

**Reporting:** Joel Zabel

**Date:** 5/27/2019

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and scout access to rebuild Cherry Gap Shelter

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to Cherry Gap Shelter

**People:** Jim Foster, Joel Zabel

**Summary:** We cut weeds with a string trimmer for 3.1 miles and cut recent small blowdowns and roots. We walked FS 230D for potential access to bring materials to Cherry Gap Shelter for rebuild. It intersects the A.T. 3/8 mile north of the shelter, and Red Fork Road 2.1 miles from Hwy 107 (where the pavement ends and gravel starts). It is gated just off Red Fork Road, before a shallow crossing of the Clear Fork Branch. It is 7/8 mile long with a 550-foot climb to the A.T. It is used by horse riders and the base is good enough for a Utility Vehicle (UTV) with some clearing of blowdowns, and even a 4-wheel-drive truck with more clearing. The 3/8 mile on the A.T. between 230D and the shelter should be navigable by UTV, though you might have to go off the A.T. and around a few tight spots.

**Reporting:** Richard Carter

**Date:** 5/28/2019

**Purpose:** Paint graffiti board and do general maintenance

**Location:** Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Richard Carter

**Summary:** The main purpose was to get the graffiti board at Stan Murray Shelter painted over, so I attended to that, which required multiple layers of Kilz over some difficult to cover "art medium." While layers were drying, I freshened up the blue blazes on the side trail to the spring and checked the spring, which is flowing well. I also whacked weeds south of the shelter as far as the first switchback and refreshed the blazes there. On the way back to my vehicle at the Barn I also refreshed the blue blazes on the side trail between it and the A.T.

**Reporting:** Pat Loven

**Date:** 5/28/2019

**Purpose:**

**Location:** Section 11a, Canute Place to the power line

**People:** Karen Loven, Pat Loven

**Summary:** We accessed the trail from Tower Road and worked from Canute Place north to the power line. We used a swing blade and loppers to trim the abundant grass and weeds away from the trail in the field and under the power line. We also trimmed the trail to the spring. Thirteen hikers passed while we were there.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/30/2019

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

**Location:** Section 19a, Central part of section from Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap Shelter

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Tony Messina, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart; and hikers, Chris and Ned

**Summary:** Mainly, we rehabbed 40 to 60-foot trail sections by removing roots or cribbing with side logs or rocks and back filling. Most of the areas were sloughing. In many areas, neither rocks nor locust logs are readily available, so we either toted the materials or re-dug the trail. Chris and Ned were gracious enough to stop their hiking to help move some large rocks. There must have been 16 hikers passing by. This rehab work will require three or more days.

**Reporting:** Ken Murray

**Date:** 6/2/2019

**Purpose:** Remove blowdown

**Location:** Section 20b, FS Road 278 between Temple Hill Gap and Spivey Gap

**People:** Ken Murray

**Summary:** Using a Katanaboy saw, I removed two blowdowns that had been reported to Carl.

**Reporting:** Scotty Bowman

**Date:** 6/3/2019

**Purpose:** Routine Maintenance

**Location:** Section 6, Iron Mountain Shelter to Vandeventer Shelter

**People:** Scotty Bowman

**Summary:** I hiked in early in the morning to make use of the daylight. The weather was perfect for spending the day out in the woods. The goal was to cut back encroaching vegetation in the sunny sections within 2 miles north of Vandeventer Shelter. I brushed out several sections totaling about one mile and cut out one 7-inch blowdown.

I removed four new fire rings and rehabbed the areas between Wilbur Dam Rd and Vandeventer. I also cleaned out the two waterbars located at about 3 miles north of Wilbur Dam. I picked up a little trash, mostly clothes and a large cookpot left at the shelter. I encountered eight thru-hikers and two section hikers. The spring at 3.3 is flowing pretty good, as is the spring for Vandeventer.

**Reporting:** Richard Carter

**Date:** 6/3/2019

**Purpose:** Cut encroaching vegetation

**Location:** Section 14c, Jane Bald

**People:** Richard Carter

**Summary:** I cut encroaching bushes and briars from the trail across almost all of Jane Bald, and also spent considerable time building large brush-ins of side trails. It was an especially gorgeous, cool day with rhododendron and flame azalea in full bloom. There were many hikers.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 6/4/2019

**Purpose:** Mow

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** Mowed and cut weeds in the camping area and along the trails as needed. We also picked up all trash and cleared all firewood from the camping area to the firepits. We restapled the fire notices posted the last time we mowed. The hikers have not rebuilt the fire pits by the barn. The water is still running well at the lower source.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 6/4/2019

**Purpose:** Mow

**Location:** Section 4b, TN91 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 spraying of the trail killed all vegetation and the trail is in great shape.

**Reporting:** Kevin Sedgwick

**Date:** 6/4/2019

**Purpose:** Whack weeds and place post

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

**People:** Kevin Sedgwick

**Summary:** I built a new pole with blaze for the upper end of Bishop Hollow. I hiked in and assembled and placed the new pole. I also fixed a problem from last time on the pole. I weed-whacked as much as I could. I met lots of hikers, many of whom stopped to talk. One was from the town I grew up in. It was a good day on the trail.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/5/2019

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

**Location:** Section 19a, Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap Shelter, northern part of section

**People:** Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Tony Messina, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We harvested a number of locust logs and got them ready for future rehab work. We also set several as side logs and covered roots with soil. By noon the showers started, so we finished what we had started and hiked out.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/7/2019

**Purpose:** Inspect site for mower

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Matthew Gilbert

**Summary:** There are a couple of sites on Osborne Farm located away from public places where a small shed could be built to house a tractor. Also, a local family is quite willing for a tractor to be stored on their property at a cabin shed. It is a very attractive option.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/13/2019

**Purpose:** Rehab trail and shelter

**Location:** Section 19a, South of Indian Grave Gap and Curley Maple Gap Shelter

**People:** Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Tony Messina, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, 4 north-bounders including "Bonfire"

**Summary:** Joe and Ted continued trail rehab just south of Indian Grave Gap by installing sidelogs and back filling. The rest of us worked at Curley Maple Gap Shelter. We added more rocks and fill dirt in the front part of the shelter to level the floor. Fortunately, four north bounders who had over-nighted at the shelter helped us move a couple of large rocks to crib the shelter floor. One rock took eight of us to shuffle it to the shelter. We rebuilt the ramp to the sleeping platform. We also strengthened the picnic table by installing construction screws in key joints. The shelter still looks great and the new graffiti board is already full.



*Joe put in extra effort; even broke the steel pick!*





**Reporting:** Greg Kramer

**Date:** 6/14/2019

**Purpose:** Control weeds

**Location:** Section 5, Near TN 91

**People:** Greg Kramer

**Summary:** I cut a 10-foot round area of multi-flora rose. I also weed-whacked and cut back encroaching rhododendron.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 6/14/2019

**Purpose:** Campsite monitoring training

**Location:** Sections 4b and 4a, TN 91 to US 421

**People:** Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters; ATC: Tip Ray

**Summary:** We met Tip Ray, a volunteer with ATC, who is providing us with training on campsite monitoring. We left a car at Low Gap on US 421 then drove around to start hiking from TN 91 looking for campsites. We didn't have to look far as there were three tents being taken down at the stiles as we arrived. Apparently the large, mowed, grassy area is attractive for camping. We moved up the trail to Double Springs Shelter and Tip showed us how to measure the various parameters at each campsite and enter them into the database. Continuing on from Double Springs Shelter, we conducted campsite monitoring to US 421.

After this trip, Phyllis and I feel confident enough to continue the campsite inventory of TEHCC's section. Tip arranged for me to have an iPad from ATC to continue the campsite inventory. Now all we need is a measuring wheel and possibly a GPS device to finish our section.



*Phyllis uses the measuring wheel while Kim enters data*

**Reporting:** Ken Buchanan

**Date:** 6/14/2019

**Purpose:** Control weeds

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

**People:** Wayne Buchanan, Steven Buchanan

**Summary:** Wayne and Steven used loppers and a string trimmer to clear encroaching vegetation. The shelter area was in unusually good shape, clean and tidy. The trail was found to be in good condition also. One blowdown was removed by brute force. Quite a few hikers were out, both foreign and domestic.

**Reporting:** Pat Loven

**Date:** 6/14/2019

**Purpose:** Trail maintenance

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

**People:** Karen Loven, Dave Mullins, Pat Loven

**Summary:** We worked from Dennis Cove Rd south doing routine maintenance. We used a gas trimmer through the field and on into the creek-side portion. Vegetation was abundant and required more work than we expected. We were able to cover about half of this section. We also removed a few stepovers and overhead obstacles and repainted many blazes. We saw only two hikers while working; however when we returned to the parking area, it was full. Obviously many others were enjoying the creek-side walk.

**Reporting:** Eric Middlemas

**Date:** 6/15/2019

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot

**People:** Rich Ritter, Pam Ritter

**Summary:** Rich and Pam cut back vegetation and weeded between Indian Grave Gap and Beauty Spot.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 6/15/2019

**Purpose:** Cut back annual growth and trim weeds

**Location:** Section 17, USFS 230 Trail North

**People:** Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Bruce and I lopped and trimmed weeds to just north of Unaka Mountain.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 6/15/2019

**Purpose:** Cut Weeds

**Location:** Section 3b, US 421 to Spring

**People:** Steve Perri

**Summary:** I hiked in from US 421 after checking in with Steve Wilson for my planned weeding trip. Weeds were about the right time to cut before getting too high. I cut weeds on the way in and out. I saw four NOBOs. USFS placed signs with info regarding bears at the campsites and requiring use of bear resistant food storage. I don't think over-nighters on short trips are likely using these containers. Hikers thanked me for the volunteer work, although I forewarned them I only went to the spring.

**Reporting:** Joel Zabel

**Date:** 6/15/2019

**Purpose:**

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS230 switchback

**People:** Ed Brading, Denny Samuel, Marcia Pruner, Jeff Miller, Marianne Huff, Todd Markwalter, Joy Zabel, Joel Zabel

**Summary:** I rolled and pushed four rotted blowdown logs off the trail and cut eight small blowdowns with handsaws. I also trimmed back rhododendron, briars, etc with loppers, hedge trimmers, and hand pruners. At the shelter, I replaced the broom and hiker log. The water source was flowing well.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 6/15/2019

**Purpose:** 3rd Saturday Hiking with Tools

**Location:** Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd

**People:** Tony Messina, Renee Messina, Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters

**Summary:** This "3rd Saturday - Hiking with Tools" trip was a retry of the April trip which was cancelled due to bad weather. The goal for the day was to replace the graffiti board at Vandeventer Shelter which had gone missing (someone ripped it off the wall) and to paint blazes and cut weeds on the blue-blaze trail to the water source. Gladly, the weather cooperated and we were able to accomplish our goal. Many thanks to Tony Messina who carried the awkward graffiti board 4.7 miles out to the shelter. Once there, we painted over the graffiti now accumulating on the walls and installed the new board. We also cleaned out the gutters on the shelter and picked up trash. As usual, there was the odd assortment of clothing. The rear gutter is almost torn off and the front one is broken in several places. Are hikers climbing on the roof?

Then we moved on to the trail to the water source and refreshed all the blazes and cut all the weeds down that very steep 0.3-mile hill to the water, which was flowing well. The pipe there is not working. We tried to re-position it with limited success. I think we need to quit calling that a piped spring. On the way out we cut a few blowdowns and trimmed a few weeds.

It was a long day for 3<sup>rd</sup>-Saturday trips, but the weather was wonderful and we did much more hiking than working, so all in all, a great day.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/18/2019

**Purpose:** Rehab Trail

**Location:** Section 15a, Roan High Knob Shelter water trail

**People:** Saylor Fox, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** Some scouts hiking 50 miles had volunteered for some maintenance. We were going to retrieve materials to rehab the water trail at Roan High Knob Shelter. They took heavy rain last night and again this early morning. Some of their gear was inadequate, meaning several tents leaked gallons. We cut out a couple of minor blowdowns and reviewed the area to be rehabbed to determine the approximate number of locust logs needed. We transported a scout and an adult to their vehicle so they could acquire more gear.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 6/19/2019

**Purpose:** Trail Maintenance

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Ed Speers

**Summary:** We mowed and cut weeds at the Accessible and Appalachian Trail across the Osborne Farm. We also installed two Trail-marker posts. We cut back vegetation and mowed the area in front of the barn.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 6/19/2019

**Purpose:** Whack weeds

**Location:** Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

**People:** Jim Chambers (SAWC)

**Summary:** I began working on the summer vegetation from 19E to the top of Hump.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/20/2019

**Purpose:** Inspect A.T. and social trails

**Location:** Section 14c, Jane Bald to Carver's Gap

**People:** Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples; ATC: Morgan Sommerville; Watauga RD: Keith Kelley; Appalachian RD: Tara Anderson; SAHC: Marquette Croquette, Travis Bordley, Sarah Jones

**Summary:** It was not crowded on Round Bald today with several heavy downpours and high winds. We primarily checked the social trails and how to discourage their use. There was good consensus on investigating the possibility of reducing excessive parking along the road and installing some road signage. Signs will be installed along the A.T. to encourage people to stay on the trail as well as to protect the plants. Some social trails will be restored. Several parts of the A.T., especially on Jane Bald, will be improved and widened. Many tasks will be done in the next several months.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/21/2019

**Purpose:** Estimate Materials for Trail Rehab

**Location:** Section 15a, Roan High Knob

**People:** Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Eddie Mece "Cast Iron"

**Summary:** We planned this evening trip to meet a scout troop. But they had such a wet week, they wisely decided to hike on to Hughes Gap and exit before rains come back tonight. We took the opportunity to survey the water trail and determine the needs, which are about 16 steps and two water diversions. "Cast Iron" came with Bob from Kincora Hostel; he had helped us at Curley Maple Gap Shelter on June 18.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers (SAWC)

**Date:** 6/21/2019

**Purpose:** Weed and clean waterbars

**Location:** Section 13, US 19E to Hump Mountain

**People:** Jim Chambers

**Summary:** I continued on with weed whacking and the cleaning of waterbars from 19E to Hump Mountain.

**Reporting:** Eric Middlemas

**Date:** 6/24/2019

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 18, FS 230 switchback to Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Eric Middlemas, Judy Middlemas, Andrew Cleland, Lana Scott, Wayne Jones, David Fay, Pat Kenney, Sharon Begley, Joe Gervais, Tim Shipley, Jeannine Edwards, David Polon, Rich Ritter, Bruce Darby, Tim Richardson, Joy Cook

**Summary:** We cut back weeds using string trimmers and lopped briars and other woody vegetation encroaching on the trail. We also refreshed waterbars, especially between Beauty Spot and Indian Grave Gap, and removed trash around Beauty Spot. More weeding remains to be done between Indian Grave Gap and Beauty Spot, which we expect to complete in the next couple of weeks.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers (SAWC)

**Date:** 6/24/2019

**Purpose:** Weed, clean waterBars, general maintenance

**Location:** Section 13, US 19E to Hump Mountain

**People:** Jim Chambers

**Summary:** Summer vegetation cutting between US 19E and Hump Mountain is very close to completion. Due to equipment failure, the day had to end before reaching the top of Hump Mountain. I will return tomorrow to finish the project. All waterbars have been cleaned, and all general maintenance has been completed on this section. SAWC has secured appropriate volunteers in order to remove 3 blowdowns on this section on 6/29 that will require chainsaw operations. Three locust trees have also been tagged for felling in order to build the turnpike south of the new bridge near 19E.

**Reporting:** Kevin Sedgwick

**Date:** 6/26/2019

**Purpose:** Place sign pole and weed wack

**Location:** Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US19E, north end

**People:** Kevin sedgwick

**Summary:** I made and put together another sign pole, carried it in and placed it. I then resumed the great week wack of 2019. I was suprised by the number of northbound thru-hikers still passing by. I met lots of section and day hikers too.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 6/26/2019

**Purpose:** Scout blowdowns and mow

**Location:** Section 16b, Greasy Creek Gap south

**People:** Joe Morris

**Summary:** I cut weeds and found two blowdowns. The first was 1.6 miles Trail South from greasy Creek and the second was 1.8 miles Trail South. The first I made passable. I had to leave the second since it was getting dark. Both will require a chainsaw.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 6/26/2019

**Purpose:** Trim weeds and do other maintenance as needed

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

**People:** Bruce Darby, John Tomko, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Taking turns, we trimmed the whole section, cleaned the waterbars, and clipped back as much as we could. There are still six blowdowns that need a chainsaw to clear.

**Reporting:** Pat Loven

**Date:** 6/26/2019

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

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

**People:** Karen Loven, Pat Loven

**Summary:** Our purpose today was to clear the reported blowdowns in the White Rock area. We drove up Tower Road and about half way to the top we found the road completely blocked by a large fallen tree. We walked a few yards further, could see other trees in the road, and decided that we did not want to spend our day clearing the road.

A spur-of-the-moment Plan B was to go to Dennis Cove and check that section. We did some minor maintenance as we walked up, but found no sign at all of wind damage. We talked to a few northbound hikers and they agreed that the blowdowns were mostly on top of the mountain near and just north of Canute's field. We talked with Carl and decided to make another attempt later, possibly driving to Canute Place from Bitter End. Carl also reported the road blockage to the Forest Service.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers (SAWC)

**Date:** 6/26/2019

**Purpose:** Whack weeds

**Location:** Section 13, US 19E to Hump Mountain

**People:** Jim Chambers

**Summary:** I finished weed whacking between 19E and Hump Mountain, as well as the blue-blaze trail to the water source at Doll Flats. I also cleared blowdowns off the Forest Service Road up to Doll Flats. The road is in decent shape given the amount of rain we've had.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/27/2019

**Purpose:** Rehab Trail and Close Social Trail

**Location:** Section 14c, Jane and Round Balds

**People:** Daryel Anderson, John Beaudet, Bettye Boone, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Saylor Fox, Greg Kramer, Tony Messina, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart; SAHC: Marquette Crockett, Travis Bordley, Kelly Joyner, Halsey Congleton, Emma Rust, Cecelia Stokes, Sarah Jones

**Summary:** It was a grand day to be on the Balds with sun and temperatures below 70 while cities were above 90. We did some step improvements and removed geoweb on Round Bald. Ted and Daryel installed a new locust step just inside the stile at Carver's Gap. John Beaudet had offered his creative touch of routing into log "STAY ON TRAIL PLEASE." Everyone wants more of these steps.



Most of our work was on the south side of Jane Bald. We widened the trail by a foot or two, added two large rock water diversions, and added probably 30 rock steps. Extra brush and sod were placed on a parallel social trail. Social trail entrances were blocked with plastic fencing and signs. Additional steps and water diversions are planned. A Hilti combihammer drill, recently purchased with TN A.T. License Plate Grant, was used for the first time. Drilling holes in locust was a snap. And drilling holes in rock was surprisingly just as easy. We were able to easily break an eight-foot rock into four-foot pieces. (See photos of the strenuous work, next page.)





**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 6/28/2019

**Purpose:** Trail Maintenance

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed and cut weeds in the camping area and along the trails as needed. We also removed rocks from the camping area and mowed the road leading from the gate to the shelter. A family of six was camping for the weekend at the shelter.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 6/29/2019

**Purpose:** Mow and remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap to section midpoint

**People:** Joe Morris

**Summary:** I removed two blowdowns but was unable to remove the tangle 1.8 mile Trail South of Greasy Creek. There were plenty of opportunities for mowing between Iron Mountain Gap and the midpoint of the section.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/29/2019

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 11a, Canute Place to 1.5 miles north

**People:** Pat Loven, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** Recent hiker and scout reports indicated there were blowdowns on top of White Rocks. There was one 16" blowdown and about four other large branches impeding the trail. Pat and Bob removed them.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/29/2019

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 11b, Canute Place to 1.2 m south

**People:** Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** Hikers and scouts had reported some blowdowns. There was a large oak that had fallen in the switchbacks. The largest branch was 16". We removed a dead leaner and another tree top. We cut some of the weeds including nettle and filled under one rock step that had become 15" high.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 6/29/2019

**Purpose:** Campsite assessment

**Location:** Section 11b, Moreland Gap Shelter to Bitter End

**People:** Kim Peters

**Summary:** I conducted the campsite assessment from Moreland Gap Shelter to Bitter End. There were 11 campsites in that 4.7-mile section of trail.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers (SAWC)

**Date:** 6/29/2019

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

**People:** Jim Chambers, Connie Squires

**Summary:** We removed all blowdowns between US 19E and Doll Flats. We also felled two locust trees in preparation for the new turnpike south of US 19E.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers (SAWC)

**Date:** 6/30/2019

**Purpose:** Whack weeds

**Location:** Section 2a, Abingdon Gap Shelter to TN/VA Stateline

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

**Summary:** It was an exceptionally long day cutting weeds between Abingdon Gap Shelter and the TN/VA State Line. The summer growth between McQueen's Gap and Damascus is extraordinarily robust this year and progress is slower than normal. We will need to return for additional lopping and blowdown removal. Lumpy and Mt. Rogers Outfitters provided transportation from Damascus to McQueen's Gap.