



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

September 2019

tehcc.org

Editor – [Terry Oldfield](#)

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Save the Date – TEHCC Fall Dinner, Friday, October 25, 2019

Please join us on the evening of Friday, October 25, to hear the Club's own Hal Yungmeyer present his experience hiking on vacation in Switzerland. Hal and his family recently stayed in a historic hotel located in a high-altitude valley in the Swiss Alps. The hotel became the base for a series of breathtaking hikes.

Information on dinner and registration will be available in upcoming email updates and the October newsletter.

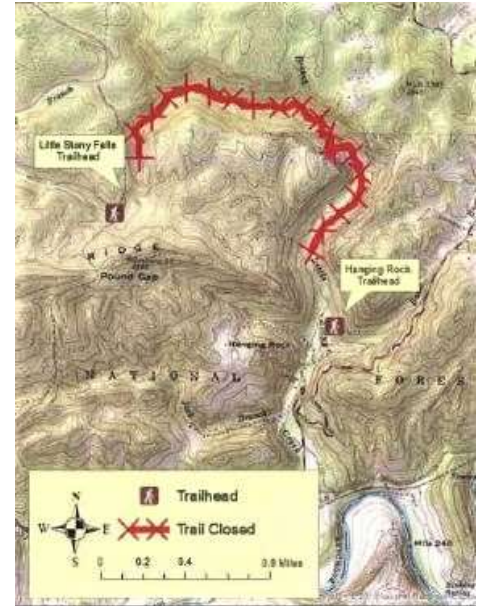
Event	Time	Details
Fall Dinner Meeting	5:30pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
Happy "Trails" Hour	5:30pm-6:30pm	Donations accepted for beer and wine, or BYOB
Dinner – TBD	6:30pm-7:15pm	TBD
Club Business	7:15pm-7:30pm	- Update of club activities - ATC Awards
Program: Hiking in the Swiss Alps	7:30pm-9:00pm	Hal Yungmeyer (TEHCC)

Partial Trail Closure – Little Stony Creek, Dungannon, VA

Update by Vic Hasler using reports of others

This hiking trail ([wiki](#)) in Jefferson National Forest proceeds through a deep, rock-lined gorge with sandstone cliffs and cascading creek to encounter a pair of curtain and plunge waterfalls. However, there are two issues which render this path temporarily closed per the official USFS May 2018 notice. A landslide in the summer of 2012 removed a section of the trail making it impassable after the first bridge from the lower trailhead. Multiple blowdowns are reported for this same area, but bypass routes allow access to the middle (curtain) waterfall. At the upper (plunge) waterfall, a more recent landslide has cut off access to the observation platform and to the bottom of the waterfall after the second bridge from the upper parking lot.

Natural Resources Specialist Brandon Olinger, Clinch Ranger District, shares that the trail is being rerouted around the older, lower slide. This section will hopefully open by late September. Funding is being sought to repair the upper slide. No timeline has been set, but hopefully it will be done by the fall 2020.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Zachary Trzil
Dulce Keller

Wesley Blankenship
Bradley Keller

Dalton McMehan
Sara Haxby

Alyssa Dingus

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>

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
September 5	Paddle to the Grill	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
September 7	Lower Watauga Paddle Trip (I-II)	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
September 12	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253
September 14	A.T.: Hike to Unaka Mountain	Jonathan Shumaker	417-389-6987
September 21	3 rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-336-0128
September 21	Lower Gauley Paddle Trip (III-IV (V))	Wesley Bradley	423-647-1321
September 28	F/B: ATC Family Hiking Day – Cloudland Trail	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
September 28	Nantahala Gorge (II or III) – Guest Appreciation	TBD	
September 28	Upper Nantahala (III-IV) – Guest Appreciation	TBD	
October 10	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253
October 19	3 rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-336-0128
October 25	TEHCC Fall Dinner – Save the Date!	TBD	

Details of Upcoming Events

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

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

Thursday Evening (Sept 5, last chance this summer), 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) and TEHCC (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) for hike details, including meeting time and place.

Biweekly on Saturdays (Sept 7, last chance this summer), 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

A.T.: Hike to Unaka Mountain, Saturday September 14, 2019

Leader: Jonathan Shumaker, 417-389-6987

Rating: Difficult 11-mile round-trip hike, 2000' of elevation gain

We will hike from Iron Mountain Gap at the A.T. crossing of TN107/NC226 to Unaka Mountain. Depending on attendance, we will do either an out-and-back or we will hike all the way to Indian Grave Gap. It is 5.5 miles up to Unaka Mountain. If we continue to Indian Grave Gap we will also get to go to see Beauty Spot. This is a long hike, so we will try to get on the trail around 8 am. Bring a lunch, snacks, and plenty of water for the hike. If there is interest from carpooling from Kingsport, let Jonathan know and hopefully something can be coordinated. The hike should be completed around 3 in the afternoon. For further information and to let us know of your interest, please call/text the hike leader.

F/B: ATC Family Hiking Day – [Cloudland Trail](#), Saturday, September 28, 2019

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

Rating: Easy 2.4-mile in-out hike with little elevation change

This Saturday event is planned to be part of the [ATC Family Hiking Day](#). We'll explore a side path proceeding off the Appalachian Trail from the site where the former Cloudland Hotel stood until it closed in 1914 and over to the Roan High Bluff viewing platform with great vistas of the surrounding area.

Let's leave Colonial Heights at 9 am to meet at Roan Mountain Gardens Parking Lot by 10:15 am. There is a \$3 entry fee for day use, so have some cash to pay the USFS. Bring comfortable footwear, appropriate clothing/sun protection, water, snack, and camera. We'll saunter along to visit the two overlooks, then return to the vehicles. If interested, I'll consider splitting a pizza lunch at Smoky Mountain Bakers in Roan Mountain. Return time is mid-afternoon. For further information, check the TEHCC Trail Wiki link in the title. Please call/e-mail hike leader to know headcount for transportation or last-minute changes.

For the Record



A.T. Watauga Lake Hike, Saturday, August 10, 2019

Jonathan Shumaker reporting

We had a good 6-mile hike around Watauga Lake to the dam and back. The trail was narrow at the beginning of the hike due to the summer foliage, but once we got about a half-mile in, it opened up. The picture shows the view back across the lake from the dam. We couldn't have had better weather for summer hiking. When we made it to the dam, we stopped for water and snacks. The lake was very busy because it was a nice summer day to be out on the water, but we were one of the few groups out on the trail. We passed only one group on the way back to the car. Attending the hike: Teni Butler, Jonathan Shumaker, Josh Boggan, and David Jewell.

AT: Tanyard Gap to Rich Mountain Fire Tower, Saturday, August 17, 2019

Vic Hasler reporting

The fire tower was reached by a steady ~11% grade climb on the well-maintained Appalachian Trail. The only problem, which we successfully avoided, was a yellow jacket nest in the ground on the left side of the trail exactly one mile up. Lunch was enjoyed in the shade of the roofed tower while viewing the rolling green mountains of North Carolina to the east and over Greeneville to the Clinch Mountains in Virginia looking west. The return back down to the vehicles was faster, so the group decided to relish ice cream treats at the Greeneville DQ on the way home. Thanks to the entire Shaefer family for joining Hanieh Niroomand and myself on this adventure.





A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 7/19 and 7/20/2019

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 15b, Cloudland Hotel to Hughes Gap

People: Michael Watts

Summary: I cut the weeds along the trail on this section.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 7/27/2019

Purpose: Clean waterbars

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

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I cleaned a bunch of waterbars. The Trail is in decent shape.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 7/27/2019

Purpose: Manage invasive species

Location: Section 4a, Berry fields north to US 421

People: Daniel Firth, Matt Drury (ATC)

Summary: We determined the extent of invasive species multiflora rose infestation along the section of trail and killed the rose immediately adjacent to the trail. A plan will be developed to further eliminate the rose. In addition, water diversions were cleaned.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 7/28/2019

Purpose: Cut back annual growth and trim weeds

Location: Section 16a, From Hughes Gap to approximately 2 miles trail south

People: Jim Foster

Summary: I only got about half of what I intended to do because of blowdown removal. It was a hot day. I think one more trip should do it.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 7/28/2019

Purpose: Campsite Inventory

Location: Section 4b, About 1 mile north of TN 91

People: Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters

Summary: We revisited a campsite to collect GPS data that was somehow not collected on our previous training trip on this section.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 7/28/2019

Purpose: Campsite inventory

Location: Sections 3a and 3b, McQueen's Gap to US 421

People: Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters

Summary: Conducted campsite inventory

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 7/28/2019

Purpose: Trim weeds

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

People: Dan Firth

Summary: I continued to trim weeds.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 7/30/2019

Purpose: Cut weeds and paint blazes

Location: Section 18, Water source at Beauty Spot Gap and Low Gap

People: Lori Mirrer, Kim Peters

Summary: We cut the weeds and repainted the blue blazes to the water source at the northern end of Beauty Spot Gap aka Low Gap. The weeds were near head high and it is doubtful that hikers were finding this water source. The piped spring was flowing well; much better than the other water source at the southern end of the gap. We tried to re-position the pipe, but there is not enough water flow at this source to feed the pipe. Lori also cut back the stinging nettle to this water source. The blue blazes looked okay and when the rain started, we decided they were good enough.



The Weeds at
Beauty Spot Gap

← Before and After →



Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/31/2019

Purpose: Remove blowdown

Location: Section 14b, Between Bradley Gap and Stan Murray Shelter, 1 mile north of Yellow Mtn Gap

People: Carl Fritz, Tony Messina

Summary: Sarah, the Roan Naturalist, identified a 9" broken limb hanging over the trail. By cutting some other limbs, we were able to safely pull the limb off the tree with a rope.

Reporting: Jim Chambers (SAWC)

Date: 7/31/2019

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Sections 13 and 14a, Doll Flats to Bradley Gap 19E to Hump

People: Jim Chambers, Bob Peoples

Summary: The intent was to remove a reported blowdown between Doll Flats and Hump; however the Forest Service Road to Doll Flats was blocked due to a tremendous tangle of blowdowns. The remainder of the day was spent clearing the road; then heavy rain began. Therefore, we will return next week to remove the intended blowdown and continue preparing for Wright State.



Reporting: Jim Chambers (SAWC)

Date: 7/31/2019

Purpose: Clear blowdown

Location: Section 8, South of Watauga Dam

People: Jim Chambers, Bob Peoples

Summary: We removed a reported blowdown south of Watauga Dam.

Reporting: Bettye Boone

Date: 8/1/2019

Purpose: Maintain shelter and repaint blazes

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

People: Bettye Boone, Saylor Fox

Summary: We repainted the graffiti board at the Roan High Knob Shelter, picked up trash in and around the shelter, fixed the pipe coming from the spring, and repainted blazes and signage from the shelter to Cloudland.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 8/3/2019

Purpose: Trim weeds

Location: Section 4a, Berry fields north to US 421

People: Dan Firth

Summary: I finished weed trimming on the section.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 8/4/2019

Purpose: Clean water diversions

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

People: Dan Firth

Summary: I cleaned the water diversions and cut back blackberry, briars, and branches.

Reporting: Jim Chambers (SAWC)

Date: 8/5/2019

Purpose: Prepare for Wright State Trail Work Event

Location: Section 14a, Between Doll Flats and Hump

People: Jim Chambers, Bob Peoples

Summary: We made preparations for the Wright State Trail Work Event on 20 August.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 8/7/2019

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter to north side of Grassy Ridge

People: Richard Carter, Brian Carter

Summary: We walked in from the barn and cut encroaching vegetation on the section south of Stan Murray Shelter for about 2/3 to 3/4 mile, part of which was very dense. We hung a sign with an arrow indicating the direction toward the spring, and carried out a modest bag of trash from the shelter, plus the shovel, the metal business-end of which had somehow been split.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 8/8/2019

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 15b, Cloudland Hotel to Hughes Gap

People: Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Bettye Boone, Jim Chambers, Saylor Fox, Carl Fritz, Elzear Lemieux, Tony Messina, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: Bettye started by cutting weeds from Toll House Gap to Cloudland and trimming back some fir trees. Jim and Saylor cut blowdowns from Roan High Knob to Carver's Gap. Everyone worked on the continuing trail rehab from Toll House Gap to Cloudland. The large locust logs were split. We made significant progress by installing more steps and repairing water diversions. Also, we built a turnpike beside the chimney which becomes a mud hole in the spring. Thanks to the hammer drill, purchased through the A.T. License Plate Grant, we were able to install all structures with rebar. That should keep these structures from frost-heaving out of the ground. We also used the drill to modify a large rock in the trail so we could have reasonable steps.



(More photos, next page.)



Reporting: Pat Loven

Date: 8/9/2019

Purpose: Detour construction

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

People: Carl Fritz, Patrick Loven, Pat Loven

Summary: We traveled back to White Rock to construct a more permanent detour around a large rootball as reported previously on 7/23 (see first photo below). With much help from Carl, we were able to build a significantly better pathway bypassing the rootball. We also trimmed back encroaching vegetation along the trail, which seems like a never ending process this year. It was a very pleasant day to be out in the mountains. We saw only two hikers on the trail while we were out.



Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 8/9/2019

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds at the campground at the Overmountain Shelter. We also posted new fire restriction signs outside the shelter. The shelter needs a new log book very badly; there are only 3 pages left in the old book. We were delayed on our return to Johnson City by a wreck on 19E at Squirrel Creek for 1 1/2 hours.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 8/9/2019

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Ed Spears

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds along the A.T. and the Accessible Trail across the Osborne Farm. We also installed two posts in the entrance fence and reattached the rails. We installed one post to blaze the trail. Matt Gilbert sprayed the Accessible Trail to kill the grass. We need to take paint and a brush for the next trip to paint the blazes. The two posts that we replaced in the stile were completely filled with carpenter ants. I hope they don't inhabit the new posts.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 8/10/2019

Purpose: Check shelter and part of section

Location: Section 11b, Moreland Gap Shelter to 2 miles south

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: I intended to go in via the Moreland Gap Shelter access trail. Driving on the forest service road I discovered the second gate was locked again, which is about a mile shy of the parking area. For a split second I thought I would drive out and hike in via Bitter End instead, but quickly decided to just walk the extra mile. So I parked at the gate. I don't know why the gate was locked, but I did encounter a blowdown on the forest service road, which I did not clear. I made it to the parking area and started hiking to the shelter. Someone had flagged the access trail. Enroute, I checked the spring which was flowing nicely. At the shelter I painted the graffiti board and placed a new log book. I hiked south of the shelter for about 2 miles lopping rhodos. It doesn't take long for them to start encroaching. Along the way I cleared two blowdowns, each requiring only one cut. Upon return to the shelter, I second-coated the graffiti board, removed ashes from fire pit, and picked up some trash. It was a bummer thinking about the extra mile to hike out, but the road was fairly easy walking.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 8/10/2019

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 15b, From Hughes Gap to Ashe Gap

People: Michael Watts

Summary: I finished cutting weeds and trimming woody growth between Hughes Gap and Ashe Gap.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 8/10/2019

Purpose: Mow

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

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I mowed to the orchard.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 8/10/2019

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 9a, US 321, Trail South

People: Joe Morris

Summary: After mowing from Iron Mountain Gap to the orchard, I went to Shook Branch and mowed the first few switch backs going trail South.

Reporting: Jim Chambers (SAWC)

Date: 8/12/2019

Purpose: Prepare for Wright State Trail Work Event

Location: Section 14a, Between Doll Flats and Hump

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I conducted trail prep for the Wright State Trail Work Event on August 20. I finalized the lower work site for this event, flagged all areas for rehab, and staged all locust logs and materials for the lower work site. The remainder of the day was spent working on the upper work area, including quarrying for rock and mining for soil.

Reporting: Jim Chambers (SAWC)

Date: 8/13/2019

Purpose: Prepare for Wright State Trail Work Event

Location: Section 14a, Between Doll Flats and Hump Mountain

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I continued trail preparations for the Wright State Trail Work Event. Focus was on the Upper Work Area just north of Hump and the feasibility of locust steps on some of the rock ledge just north of the cattle fence. The Upper Work Area was also cut out, flagged, and construction materials staged. I will return tomorrow to complete all preparations for this event.

Reporting: Jim Chambers (SAWC)

Date: 8/14/2019

Purpose: Prepare for Wright State Trail Work Event

Location: Section 14a, Between Doll Flats and Hump Mountain

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I completed all work-site preparations for the upcoming Wright State Trail Work Event. I handed out two TEHCC volunteer patches to a father and son who helped me carry a particularly heavy locust log.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 8/15/2019

Purpose: Cut encroaching vegetation

Location: Section 14c, Grassy Ridge

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I cut weeds and shrubbery along a section just south of the Grassy Ridge trail junction.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 8/15/2019

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 15a, North of Cloudland

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Saylor Fox, Carl Fritz, Elzear Lemieux, Tony Messina, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: We continued to install locust steps and waterbars using rebar. We were also able to set three locust steps on a rock. This was all due to having new capability with the hammer drill purchased with the A.T. TN License Plate grant. We added a few rock steps and large ugly rocks by dismantling part of the large fire ring. We back-filled all the steps by recovering soil from high parts of the trail. We then declared the rehab as complete from Toll House Gap to Cloudland.

Reporting: Jim Chambers (SAWC)

Date: 8/20/2019

Purpose: Wright State Trail Event

Location: Section 14a, Doll Flats to Hump Mountain

People: Jim Chambers, Bob Peoples, Mike "Lumpy" Price, Melissa Stahl, John Beaudet, Van Hovey, Joe Morris, Greg kramer, Elzear Lemieux, Paul Benfield, Ted Mowry, Paul Casper, Riley Osgood, Mathew Slusser, Kaightlyn Eught, Mason Nickerbocker, David sloane, Nick Green, Madison Klemp, Robert Thompson, Lilith Bombay, Maureen Roddy, Ellie Ferrais, Anthony Dairaghi, Ava Houpe, Alex Pisor, Adam Cary

Summary: We conducted the 20th Annual Wright State Trail Work Event with multiple teams. The Lower Group rehabbed 200 feet of trail with significant new cribbing, extensive back fill, and proper drainage between Doll flats and the first significant rock climb up to Hump Mountain.

The Upper Group completely changed the treadway from the cattle fence north of Hump Mountain down to the campsite as you head down to Doll Flats. Sixteen new locust steps were installed with 5/8-inch rebar, which completely changes the appearance of this section. Having changed the overall grade of this section, three new water diversions were permanently placed to drain water from the trail. The campsite just north of Hump Mountain was destroyed, as well as all social trails leading to the campsite and to the makeshift privies in the vicinity. Also, new blazes were painted, which should alleviate any hiker confusion in this high-use area.

Afterwards, we returned to the Southern Appalachian Work Center for the annual Lumberjack Contest, celebration meal, and other festivities related to this event.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 8/21/2019

Purpose: 2019 Roan Naturalist Wrap-up Meeting

Location: Appalachian District Office

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: In its seventh year, the Roan Naturalist Program has been very successful in mitigating some visitor use impacts while providing insights for the partner agencies. This meeting was a chance for Sarah Jones to share her observations from the summer, thus prompting discussion on several topics. Actions regarding campsites, campfires, signage, social trails, and social media will be evaluated before the next peak-use season.

Reporting: Terry A Oldfield

Date: 8/26/2019

Purpose: Maintain shelter

Location: Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter

People: Kim Peters, Terry Oldfield

Summary: Kim and I hiked to Double Springs Shelter from TN 91. The trail is in good shape. At the shelter, we painted the graffiti board, picked up trash, cleaned out the fire pit, and replaced the log book. The spring is running well. We did note large hoof prints along the edge of the trail; probably equine.