



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

May 2021

tehcc.org

Co-Editors – [Terry Oldfield](#) and [Sharon Burnette](#)

Celebrating 75 Years!

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Letter From the Chair

Submitted by Kyle Haas (Steering Committee Chair)

With summer and great weather quickly approaching, I wanted to start the Newsletter off this month with a couple hiking safety points. I'm sure a lot of this will be known, but it never hurts to have a quick refresher!

- 1) **Hike with a "buddy" when at all possible.** If you hike alone (and with a group) make sure someone not on the hike knows the general route, where you are heading, and when you plan to return.
- 2) **Stay on the Marked Trail.** This keeps you safe, as well as helps prevent erosion and damage to the environment.
- 3) **Stay hydrated and bring snacks.** This helps keep you safe as well as focused on the trail.
- 4) **Bring a map/know the trail route.** Cellphone coverage is usually pretty spotty out on the trails, so make sure you have an understanding of the area in which you are hiking.
- 5) **Be vigilant for Poison Ivy and Poison Oak.**

Thanks,
Kyle Haas
kyle.haas@eastman.com

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Picking a Tent for Your Next Adventure

Submitted by Jonathan Shumaker, Rental Equipment Coordinator

The hiking club has some great tents to rent for various adventures you may want to go on. Some tents are great for solo backpack adventures, and others are for the whole family to car camp. The best place to start looking for the tents the club has to offer is <http://tehcc.org/rentals/#tents>. There are selection guides to help you nail down the best tent for you, or you can just browse the listings. There is a tent selection guide for [1-3 person tents](#) and one for [4-6 person tents](#).

There are some things to know about what you are looking for when selecting a tent using these guides. Most of this is just understanding the lingo of the tent world. If you have ever shopped for tents, have a lot of backpacking experience, or have camped a lot then most of this will be familiar. For backpacking, it is vital to control the weight that each person is carrying. Getting the lightest tent that can sleep each person in the group is usually the best direction to go. If weight isn't so important then you can start to decide what types of features you want on your tent. The first feature that many people want is a vestibule. A vestibule on a tent is when there is a small area that is covered by the rainfly that is outside the tent. This can be great if you know that you will be hiking in wet conditions because you can store your wet gear outside your sleeping area but still covered. When you start to get into the bigger tents, there are three kinds that the club has to offer: A-Frame, dome, and hoop. A-Frame tents are known for being great in rain or windy conditions, but typically have the least amount of headspace. Dome tents seem to be the most common nowadays. They are known for being easy to set up, but the cons are the vestibule area can be small, and they are not great for adverse weather conditions. Hoop or Tunnel tents have a lot of space but are not good for rainy conditions.

Many people, including myself, have not had the chance to set up, or camp in different types of tents, so it is hard to know what you want. My recommendation is to try something! You will learn by trying something new. I also highly recommend setting up your tent in your yard or living room, if you have enough space, before heading out on your adventure. You never know the conditions you will be in when you are setting it up, so having the experience of setting it up once can be extremely helpful.

If you want to see all the tents the club has, or any of the other gear, check out the website: <http://tehcc.org/rentals/>. You can also stop by B310 and see it in person from 7:30am-4:00pm M-F.

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
May 1	A.T. Hike: Carver's Gap to Roan High Knob	Andy Steffan	919-928-4738
May 8	Second Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	Tim Stewart	423-483-9329
May 8	Laurel Run Trail	Jonathan Shumaker	417-389-6987
May 15	Laurel Falls Hike	Chantel Roberts	608-636-3207
May 20	Steering Committee Meeting	Kyle Haas	423-229-5869
May 22 – 23	APEs Summer Kick Off	Andy Steffan	919-928-4738
June 12	Second Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	Tim Stewart	423-483-9329
June 17	Steering Committee Meeting	Kyle Haas	423-229-5869

Details of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting - Third Thursday of Each Month, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Contact: [Kyle Haas](#)

Location: Teleconference

The Steering Committee guides the general program for the club. The Committee normally meets at lunchtime on the third Thursday of each month. Meetings are open to all TEHCC members. We are using teleconferencing due to Eastman's directions to current employees. If you want to listen/join in, please contact me.

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Sunday Afternoons: Johnson City Roll Practice, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Contact: [Wesley R. Bradley](#), 423-647-1321

Come join the [J.A.W.](#), [Mahoney's Outfitters](#), [APEs](#), and other paddlers from our region at Freedom Hall Pool for tips about basic kayaking skills. Have you already mastered the basics and have a bomb proof roll? There is still a lot of fun to be had at our pool session by practicing your flat-water freestyle moves and fellowshiping with other paddlers. Admission to the pool is \$2; rolling advice is free! Contact the pool office (423- 461-4872) for session confirmation or questions regarding the facility. Click [here](#) for more information.

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.

Second Saturday of Each Month: Hiking with Tools!

Contact: [Tim Stewart](#), 423-483-9329

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. Some minor tasks might include: cleaning waterbars and steps, lopping rhododendron, dismantling fire rings, or painting blazes or shelters. All tools will be furnished and no prior experience required! All are Welome, so come on out, meet some new hikers and join the Fun...and maybe get your hands a little dirty!

Scheduled Events

A.T.: Carver's Gap to Roan High Knob, Saturday, May 1, 2021

Leader: [Andy Steffan](#), (919) 928-4738

Rating: Moderate, 4.5 or 6.9 round-trip, 1200 ft gain

Time: 10 am – 1:00 pm

Location: [Carver's Gap](#), State Road 1348, Bakersville, NC 28705

We will be hiking from the Carver's Gap parking area up to, or near, Roan High Knob. Round-trip will be about 4.5 miles, but could extend to 6.9 miles round-trip if the group is up for it to view another overlook. The hike will be on the A.T., through the fir forest, past the Cloudland Hotel remains, and past an A.T. shelter. Bring plenty of water and lunch/snacks.

Laurel Run Trail, Saturday, May 8, 2021

Leader: [Jonathan Shumaker](#), (417) 389-6987

Rating: 3 mile (easy) round-trip, 400 ft gain (moderate)

Time: 8:30 am – 11:00 am

Location: [Laurel Run Parking Area](#), 364 Laurel Run Park Road, Church Hill, TN

We will meet in Laurel Run Park at 8:30 am and hike a little over a mile up to the falls and then back down to the parking area. There are options to extend the hike past the falls, and if the group is interested, we may add some more miles. There is a creek crossing, so come prepared to get your feet wet! The trail is wide and it is a great hike to bring the whole family.

Laurel Falls Hike, Saturday, May 15, 2021

Leader: [Chantel Roberts](#), (608) 636-3207

Rating: Moderate, 4.6 miles, 620 ft gain

Time: 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Location: [Laurel Fork Gorge Trailhead](#), 1023 US-321 Hampton TN

The Laurel Falls hike is one of my favorite hikes in the area. The trailhead is less than an hour from Kingsport. It's a 4.6-mile out-and-back type trail. You hike along the beautiful Laurel Fork of Doe River, eventually leading to a waterfall! A short part of the hike involves scrambling over some rocks, but it is not very difficult. Once we get to the waterfall, we can take a break to relax and eat snacks/lunch. You can even hop in the water to cool off!

If you plan to attend, please meet me at the trailhead. You can navigate to this site: [Laurel Falls Trail – Tennessee | AllTrails](#), then click "directions" and it will pull up google maps and take you there! When you get close, the trailhead comes up quickly, so be looking for it.

APEs Summer Kick Off, Saturday and Sunday, May 22 – 23, 2021

Submitted by: [Andy Steffan](#), (919) 928-4738

When: Saturday, May 22nd – 23rd, 10 am start on 22nd

Where: Riverside Park, Elizabethton, TN

This two day paddling event will kick off the summer the right way! This will be a time for club members to reunite for another great year of paddling and will allow newcomers to meet more of the paddling community and make friends/connections. This event has

something for everyone and is intended to include something for all types of paddling, from whitewater kayakers, whitewater canoers, to inflatable rafts and rec boats. All participants will need to bring their own gear, but some loaner gear could likely be rounded up if notified ahead of time; please reach out to me or another APEs member to work that out. Cost is free for all APEs members, or \$25 for non-members (cheaper to get a year's membership for \$15 and enjoy a year's worth of club benefits). [Signups](#) begin April 2nd.

Rough schedule:

Saturday will consist of intro, club updates, skill sessions around river safety and first aid, lunch, and boating activities in the afternoon, which will include basic strokes and skill sessions for newcomers to the sport. Different levels of activities will likely be offered based on experience and types of boats for people attending.

Sunday will consist of 2 river trips to have fun and practice, likely a Class II trip and a Class III trip.

Recollections for Club's 75th Anniversary – Watauga Residential College

Submitted by Carl Fritz and Vic Hasler

Watauga Residential College (WRC, watauga.appstate.edu) is within Appalachian State University's College of Arts and Sciences. Their director in 2000, David Huntley, started partnering with TEHCC to bring the incoming freshmen students to a maintenance



event on the Appalachian Trail as an orientation opportunity for the students, to get to know each other by working together. In 2014, Dr. Clark Maddux became the college's director with continued enthusiasm for the yearly outing.

It is important to understand that the college outing in 2000 with a total of 106 people in the field was the first large-group trail maintenance event that TEHCC had ever organized. Large groups of students meant one to three large buses pulling into a parking lot after traveling the winding mountain roads, but it also meant that help had arrived. This large maintenance event also inspired the subsequent famous two-day Hard Core in Damascus, VA involving 100 or more hikers annually over 15 years. (See the April 2021 newsletter.)

WRC worked on major trail relocations or rehabs in many places from Damascus to south of Iron Mountain Gap from 2000 thru 2017. Club members came out in large numbers to work alongside these young adults to accomplish projects that we could not have done by ourselves. Over seventeen outings, the students provided more than 15,000 volunteer hours, leveraging another 3,000 hours by club volunteers, in building almost three miles of new trail and rehabbing another 0.6 miles. Interestingly, for three years the students helped move gravel along the Appalachian Trail to places in the Roan Highlands that could not be reached - except by bucket. The bucket brigades hauled over 88,000 pounds or 44 tons with probably 3,000 bucket loads! Keep in mind this amount is dry weight. In 2014, an early afternoon rain saturated the gravel to make it much heavier until poured on the geotextile; however, the end result was a hardened trail still resisting the thousands of footsteps each year hiking up to the balds. Finally, club lore has it that the unnamed waterfall near now Mountaineer Falls Shelter was designated by the college students during the site preparation for the build.

Probably the most significant impact may be that over 1600 new students and staff have been exposed to the Appalachian Trail and its maintenance efforts through this relationship. Perhaps some will not only hike more of the Appalachian Trail but may even do some trail maintenance in the future. In the end, the major efforts to improve our assigned 134 trail miles were successful, thus there are no longer projects requiring large work crews, such as those that have been wonderfully staffed by WRC.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Douglas Beattie

Tricia Pope

Gary Bond

Mark Ramsey

Ravan Marinescu

Ruben Rasnick III

2021 Roan Naturalist, Joshua Lyon

Introduction assembled by Vic Hasler



Starting in mid-May, the ninth Roan Naturalist will have a challenge serving, as the hiking public emerges from the pandemic restrictions. *Leave No Trace* principles are critical to mitigate the impact of footsteps by the thousands across fragile landscape.

Joshua is currently serving in a similar position as a Ridgerunner for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in Georgia, where he gives "Smart Start" orientations to A.T. hikers. He is a Wilderness First Responder and has completed two stints as a Trail Crew Member and a Trail Crew leader at Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards. In addition, he has served as a Residential Counselor for youth at Elida Homes treatment facility in Asheville. Joshua is working on his bird identification skills with a growing passion for ornithology after volunteering with the Guidre-Parker Lab setting up bird feeders and cameras.

After spending the summer on the Roan, Joshua plans to continue his formal education in Natural Resources Management at Western Carolina University.

2021 Roan Mountain Hikerpalooza

Submitted by Vic Hasler

Hikerpalooza will return to Roan Mountain, TN (41st A.T. Community) on Saturday, May 8th. However, due to the pandemic, this year will have a Hiker Hospitality event instead of a Hiker/Community celebration. Two local hostels have special meals for their hikers. The community park will also be open for hiker camping with access to fresh fruits, toiletries, etc. at no cost. The Roan Mountain community will be dedicating two A.T. informational panels posted on the back of the park stage. One describes the community's relationship to the Appalachian Trail and Leave No Trace concepts, while the other identifies key organizations who take care of the A.T. and highlights the efforts of the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club.

For the Record

Bays Mountain Park, Ridge Road to Lake Road, Saturday, April 17, 2021

Jonathan Shumaker reporting

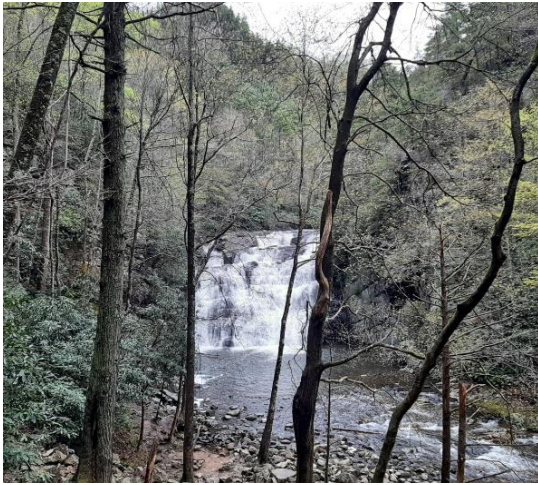
It was a beautiful cool morning for a hike on April 17. We were racing against a few rain showers that were expected around lunch. The hike started by crossing the dam and then climbing up the ridge. It was a lot of elevation gain, but well worth it with the views to the south from the top. We looped back around and came back along Lake Road. The park was getting very crowded with the lunch picnickers and early afternoon hikers when we arrived back at the parking area. Attendees were Jonathan Shumaker and Teni Butler.



A.T.: Dennis Cove Trailhead to Horseridge Gap, Sunday, April 25, 2021

Kyle Haas reporting

Again, this hike was inspired with the goal of continuing to section hike the A.T. Rain forced the hike to be moved from Saturday to Sunday, however, the weather that day ended up being fantastic (not too cold or too hot). Laurel Falls was a great sight with the recent rain, and the views through the trees this time of year were much better than expected! Attendees were Kyle Haas, Jonathan Shumaker, and Teni Butler. (See photos next page.)



Trail Wiki Hike Summary

Submitted by [Tim Schaefer](#)

Log your hikes on our Trail Wiki. Keep track of your SB6K and area hikes completed, also share with others the hikes you like to do. Recent hikes are now viewable at http://tehcc.org/wiki/Recent_Hikes. See the following table for hikes that were added to the Trail Wiki in April. **Club led hikes are highlighted green.**

Date	Trail(s)	Hike Distance	# of Hikers	Tags	Reported By
05-Feb-2021	Sinking Waters Warriors' Path State Park	1.75 mi	2	Cats	Jshumaker
	Comment: Was a great evening for a hike right before sunset.				
19-Feb-2021	Sinking Waters Warriors' Path State Park	2.14 mi	2	Cats	Jshumaker
	Comment: Great cool evening hike. Waters weren't sinking because of how saturated the ground was.				
21-Feb-2021	US19E to Dennis Cove Rd	10.5 mi	2	AT	Jshumaker
	Comment: Was a wonderful day for a hike. The waterfalls were flowing and had ice on them!				
07-Mar-2021	Chimney Top	3 mi	7		YogiHiker
	Comment: Nice clear day to for this short but intense hike. Very windy at the top. You can walk the ridgeline in both directions coming off the trail at the top. Amazing views, well worth the climb. Property o... more				
20-Mar-2021	Iron Mountain Gap to Carver's Gap	7.5 mi	4	AT	Jshumaker
	Comment: Teni Butler, Kyle Haas, and Alex Lyttle attended the hike. It was a great cool day.				
27-Mar-2021	Dennis Cove Rd to Wilbur Dam Rd	7.6 mi	4	AT	Jshumaker
	Comment: Hiked with Teni Butler, Alex Lyttle, Rachel Stammen. Was a cool start to the hike but we got rained on with a lot of wind on the way back to the cars. Some sunshine in between the storm clouds dried ...more				
03-Apr-2021	Devil's Backbone Warriors' Path State Park	2.4 mi	4		Andysteffan
	Comment: Enjoyed a lovely hike in the park with my family. I like this trail because of the diversity of things to see when linked up with Fall Creek loop.				

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Date	Trail(s)	Hike Distance	# of Hikers	Tags	Reported By
03-Apr-2021	Fall Creek Loop Warriors' Path State Park	0.92 mi	4		Andysteffan
	Comment: Enjoyed a lovely hike in the park with my family. I like this trail because of the diversity of things to see when linked up with Devil's Backbone. Water was flowing great!				
10-Apr-2021	Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mountain Gap	11.8 mi	3	AT	Jshumaker
	Comment: Teni Butler, and Kyle Haas were on the hike. It was a great hike. We stopped for an early lunch up in the pine trees on top of Unaka Mt.				



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Van Hovey

Date: 3/12/2021

Purpose: Clear blowdown

Location: Section 19b, Curley Maple Gap Shelter to Nolichucky River, Jones Branch

People: Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey

Summary: We cleared a small 10" blowdown on the Jones Branch section with a chainsaw.

Reporting: Richard Ramsey

Date: 3/14/2021

Purpose: Inspect trail

Location: Section 14a, Doll Flats to Bradley Gap, Hump Mtn

People: Richard Ramsey, Cheryl Ramsey

Summary: We inspected the section. We picked up trash at Doll Flats and cleared a blowdown.

Reporting: Gerald Scott

Date: 3/26/2021

Purpose: Routine Spring Maintenance

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Sugar Hollow Creek

People: Gerald Scott, Eric Scott, Harold Wexler

Summary: Friday turned out to be a perfect day between two major storm systems. There had been lots of rain and parts of the trail were soggy. Water crossings at Sugar Hollow Creek and Jones Branch were difficult. All the stepping stones were submerged. We removed three blowdowns from the blue-blaze trail at the shelter. One blowdown was a little too large for the silky saw. I sent pictures to Carl for future removal by the chainsaw crew.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 3/27/2021

Purpose: Trim uphill growth on high-water bypass

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Starting at southern trail split

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: Last weekend, Troop 48 hiked the old A.T. route (pre-1975), which is now the Hampton blue-blaze trail to Laurel Falls, and then looped back on the high-water bypass to complete a five-mile distance. Growth along the high-water route was observed to be pushing the path to the edge. My goal for today was to trim the uphill brush to allow the trail to adjust towards the middle of the old rail cut. Unfortunately, the time in the field was greatly shortened by a late start and also an early warning of the approaching storm squall line. The latter situation prompted me to immediately head to my truck parked at Dennis Cove while alerting several hiking and backpacking groups of the impending danger. Lightening was seen as I got off the Appalachian Trail, and then a heavy downpour and marble-sized hail was encountered in Elizabethton. A return hopefully in the coming week will complete the job.

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Reporting: Van Hovey

Date: 3/29/2021

Purpose: Scout and assess trail condition

Location: Section 19b, Curley Maple Gap Shelter to Nolichucky River

People: Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey

Summary: After the windy and rainy weather passed through on Saturday and Sunday, Carrie and I decided to walk the entire section to inspect for blowdowns and other trail issues. Some very small blowdowns were removed with a handsaw; however there are several drainage issues on the section that need to be addressed. The majority of drainage issues occur on the trail section past the second bridge and up to the fourth bridge. A fifty-foot section of trail about a quarter of a mile below the shelter can also use some drainage work. The section that was repaired on 2/17/2021 has held up exceptionally well and is performing as intended, however more similar work needs to be done. Drainage is an issue. It needs stepping stones and /or diversions. Overall, the trail is in reasonable condition. The bridges are intact, rocky walking but no major obstacles, and the shelter is looking good.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 3/29/2021

Purpose: Walk entire 2.4-mile maintenance section, and begin lopping

Location: Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to No Business Knob shelter and back

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: Arriving at the Forest Service road at sunrise, I cut back growth for an hour and a half as a warm-up and to provide for clear vehicle passage. The culvert at the bottom of Temple Hill Gap forest road has been installed and is ready for a gate. The hike uphill takes a half hour. I walked the entire distance of my newly adopted section, observing that trimmer(s) had been used to cut mostly rhododendron with some azalea and dog-hobble. I removed a fresh rhododendron blowdown and lopped away as time allowed in both directions. The need is to give more room on the uphill side as backpackers are walking on the very lower edge in many places – with three recent tread failures observed. Addressing the sloughing soil could also help. Otherwise, this A.T. section is open with absolutely no trash seen. The rough 4.5-mile Granny Lewis FR takes 20 minutes to drive.

Reporting: Pat Loven

Date: 3/30/2021

Purpose:

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

People: Pat Loven

Summary: I worked on the upper portion of this section on White Rock. I painted new blazes and touched up many old ones. The trail condition was surprisingly good for this time of year. I did encounter a few small downed trees, but all were easy to step over. I will return with a chainsaw to address those. I saw three hikers - all heading north. It was a beautiful day in the mountains!

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 3/30/2021

Purpose: Finish cutting growth on high-water bypass

Location: Section 10, Dennis Cove Road to Laurel Fork Shelter

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: I completed cutting back growth on the high-water bypass route – which was stopped short on Saturday due to early arrival of severe weather. I removed a fresh blowdown right inside the wilderness boundary, and then continued to the blue-blaze trail. Brush within roughly four feet of the cliff edge was lopped or sawn to allow the mostly local hikers a chance to shift towards the middle of the old rail route. About halfway down the bypass, a path around a tree was cleared since a large dead trunk is suspended over the trail along the edge. I inspected Laurel Fork Shelter which is missing a logbook and shovel.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 4/2/2021

Purpose: Cut back azaleas and rhododendron

Location: Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to half-mile south

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: This was the last available day of spring break. The total travel commitment (driving and hiking) to get to Temple Hill Gap and back is somewhat over three hours. The April Fools continued into the following morning, being well below freezing, some snow on the ground, and lots of hoarfrost. My starting goal was to use the battery-powered hedge trimmers to cut back the azaleas at the first sharp turn in the trail. Once done, I pursued lopping the thick uphill growth to provide a four-foot wide path until my turnaround time was reached. This effort will need to be continued on further workdays to finish the section.

Reporting: Lotta Murray

Date: 4/3/2021

Purpose: Cut back brush

Location: Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to Spivey Gap, Can lot to Spivey Gap Road

People: Lotta Murray, Peggy Cantrell

Summary: The trail is in good condition. There were no new blowdowns, but we cut back lots of rhododendron and small brush.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman

Date: 4/3/2021

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: It was a great day to be out in the wild. I hiked in mainly to check the section for any blowdowns after a couple of very windy days. I am happy to report, it is all clear. I carried a swing blade and cut back the early growth of blackberries and briars. There is still a lot left to do. As the day went on, I ran into 24 hikers, mostly NOBOS.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

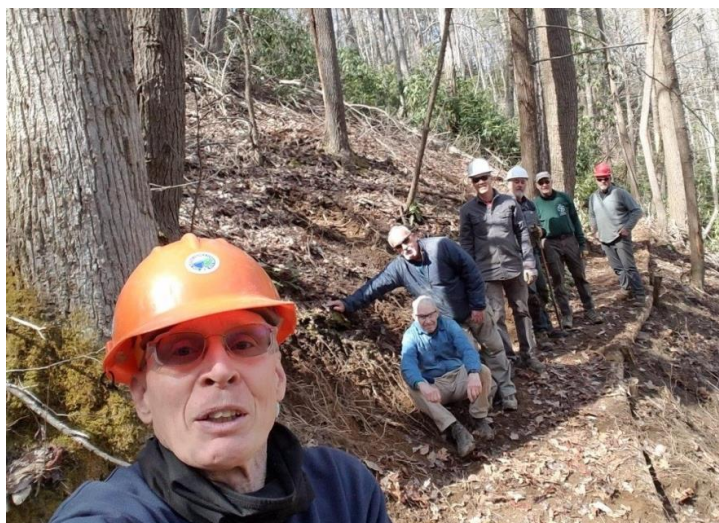
Date: 4/3/2021

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 20b, Devil's Creek Gap to within 1 mile of No Business Knob Shelter

People: Richard Carter, Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Tony Messina, Joe Morris, Ken Murray, Terry Shipley

Summary: We only removed one blowdown. But we cut a large dead pine on the lower edge of the trail that was going to take out the trail. In some wet areas, we added about nine rock steps and four stepping stones. We also installed about 60 feet of side log and buried roots. We saw about fifteen hikers, including two south bounders. Terry Shipley made an effort to join us. He lives in Indiana, his son lives in Newland, and he helps the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club.



Reporting: Richard Ramsey

Date: 4/4/2021

Purpose: Inspect trail

Location: Section 14a, Doll Flats to Bradley Gap

People: Richard Ramsey, Cheryl Ramsey

Summary: We inspected the section, picked up trash at Doll Flats, and cleared a blowdown.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/5/2021

Purpose: Inspect trail

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, High-Water Trail

People: Bob Peoples

Summary: Bob primarily checked for blowdowns. Hikers he encountered were not remembering any from the Hampton end. He confirmed that the shelter sleeping platform needs some repairs and the hardware cloth under shelter was torn.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/7/2021

Purpose: Inspect trail

Location: Section 11a, South of Dennis Cove in open field

People: Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: The open-field trail is starting to wash. We need to add locust water diversions. There are plenty of down locusts in the area.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/7/2021

Purpose: Clear blowdown and repair shelter

Location: Section 10, Hampton Trail Head to Laurel Fork Shelter

People: Carl Fritz, Bill Fuller, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, 2 little kids

Summary: We removed a dead snag that was supported over head by another tree on the high-water trail.

Late last year, as well as a number of years ago, a fire was built on the sleeping platform of Laurel Fork Shelter. The previous burn was covered with aluminum. The plywood was getting soft enough that we took two small pieces of plywood and replaced the old. The sleeping platform was always about 3 feet high. We added a large locust log across the front of shelter and raised the log with rocks; then set a large rock step in front of the locust. We backfilled behind the locust with rock. As we were finishing, a family hiked by and Bill Fuller knew them. The two young children were enthusiastic about helping to carry rocks to finish the fill. We awarded them patches for their effort.



Reporting: Eric Middlemas

Date: 4/7/2021

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to FS230 Switchback

People: Eric Middlemas, Judy Middlemas, Rich Ritter, David Polon, Wayne Jones, Pat Kenney, Ruthie Edwards, Jeff Marek, Maureen McCarty, Sharon Begley, Willie Tyree, Lana Scott, Laurie Levknecht, Marcia Pruner

Summary: We conducted a routine spring walk-through from Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot Gap. We cleaned waterbars, clipped back vegetation, and removed a large blowdown about 100 yards north of the intersection of the A.T. and FS230.

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Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 4/7/2021

Purpose: Routine maintenance

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

People: Jim Foster

Summary: I removed two blowdowns from the trail to the shelter and water source. There are three blowdowns that will require a chainsaw in the first 2 miles trail-south of Hughes Gap.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 4/9/2021

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap to Greasey Creek

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I cleaned water diversions Iron Mtn Gap to Weedy Gap. The rolling-grade dips are working great.

Reporting: David Ramsey

Date: 4/10/2021

Purpose: Remove small blowdowns, brush, lop, and check trail condition

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

People: David Ramsey, Mark Ramsey

Summary: We made this trip primarily to check the section's condition and address any immediate issues, as an increasing number of hikers are now entering our region from the south. Small to medium blowdowns were removed, minor brushing and light lopping were done and an assessment of needed blazing and heavier lopping was made. We will return to address those last two within the next couple of weeks. The shelter looked very good, and one thru-hiker told us it was by far the best shelter he had seen since Springer. Congrats to all who were involved in that rehab project! There are 3-4 tires above the trail near where the furniture and appliances were located before, so we'll go back up to Ephraim Place Rd and walk down to retrieve them asap.

NOTE: The cribbing work done previously by Carl, Bob P., and crew looks great and will provide much needed protection for the foreseeable future. Thanks once again to all involved for your hard work on the section at a time when I was unable to assist.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 4/12/2021

Purpose: Clean Waterbars

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Greg Kramer

Summary: I cleaned waterbars, but also added some rolling dip water diversions. The trail near the shelter has no locust trees. The trail is definitely being damaged by the hard rains we have been having. The shelter is fine; the graffiti board will need a paint job soon.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 4/12/2021

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and briars, paint blazes

Location: Sections 3a and 3b, McQueens Gap to Low Gap (Hwy 421)

People: Carl Belcher, Ted Malone, Steve Wilson

Summary: Using a chainsaw we cut all blowdowns from McQueens Gap to Low Gap (Hwy 421). We also painted blazes and cut briars. Sections 3a and 3b are clear and in good shape.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 4/12/2021

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to two miles south

People: John Beaudet, Jim Foster

Summary: John and I cut three blowdowns and cleared the trail. It was a beautiful day; we met several thru-hikers.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 4/13/2021

Purpose: Konnarock Steering Committee Meeting

Location: Kingsport, TN

People: Steve Perri

Summary: Steve attended the Konnarock Steering Committee meeting with the VA and Southern Region to discuss crew week allocations and new requests for Konnarock crew time in 2026. TEHCC has no project requests for 2025 and 2026. The weeks of crew time that were requested aligned well with the weeks available, so no time was spent negotiating available resources. The call

was mostly done in 40 minutes! For those new to the APPA planning process, funding of projects is done on a 3 year basis and ATC puts in requests 2 years ahead of the funding request; so a project to be worked on actually requires a request to be put into the asset management system 5 years in advance. For 2021, TEHCC Konnarock time is scheduled for May 13-20 for rehab work trail-south of Greasy Creek Gap using 4-5 crew members. Due to the Covid-19 safety-compliance plan, they will be working independently of TEHCC volunteers.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 4/15/2021

Purpose: Rehab trail and construct steps

Location: Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to Spivey Gap, Can Lot to No Business Knob Shelter

People: Carl Fritz, Ken Murray, Elzear Lemieux, Tony Messina, Van Hovey, Tim Stewart, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris

Summary: We rehabbed 210 feet of trail, installed 3 steps at a water crossing near the shelter, and inspected the shelter. We also reinforced and replaced the stone steps from 4/3/2021 to shore up and stabilize a 12-step staircase. We saw over 3 dozen thru-hikers heading NOBO, mostly in groups, and a couple section-hiking back to Georgia.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/16/2021

Purpose: Inspect trail and shelter

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, A.T. and High-Water Trail

People: Bob Peoples, Rio Berry

Summary: Bob and Rio scouted the gorge and cut some vegetation. The shelter is still in good condition.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 4/18/2021

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

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

People: Dan Firth, Michaela Hofbauer

Summary: We walked from Low Gap to Double Springs Shelter clearing two large blowdowns and conducting routine maintenance. Many hikers were out; most were northbound thru-hikers.

Reporting: Richard Ramsey

Date: 4/20/2021

Purpose: Repair waterbars, clean up Doll Flats

Location: Section 14a, Doll Flats to Bradley Gap, First Fence

People: Richard Ramsey, Gus Jerdee

Summary: We repaired a few of the waterbars right before the first fence and the Bald. We placed rocks at the sides of the waterbars to keep people from cutting around the bars. We also removed a few blowdowns and picked up trash at Doll Flats.

Reporting: Elzear Lemieux

Date: 4/20/2021

Purpose: A.T. Maintenance

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

People: Elzear Lemieux, Emily Lemieux

Summary: We walked the section; cleaned water diversions, removed several small stumps in the trail, removed trip (root) hazards, cut back vegetation, checked the water sources, removed a fire ring from an unauthorized campsite, picked up trash, checked fencing at the entrance, and cleaned out fire rings at the shelter and the authorized campsite.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 4/22/2021

Purpose: Harden Trail to keep ATVs off A.T. at Low Gap

Location: Sections 3b and 4a, From US 421 (Low Gap) in both directions

People: Dean Baird, Carl Fritz, Elzear Lemieux, Van Hovey, Tim Stewart, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris

Summary: From Low Gap going north, we built three steps and placed large rocks to keep ATVs from getting past the steps. We also created 15 waterbars up to 1/2 mile NOBO. From Low Gap going south, six water diversions were cleaned and additional large rocks were added to decrease the chance of ATVs coming up the trail. The water source at Low Gap was also cleaned out.

Reporting: Van Hovey

Date: 4/23/2021

Purpose: Replace graffiti board and pick up trash at Curley Maple Shelter

Location: Section 19b, Curley Maple Gap Shelter to Nolichucky River

People: Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey, Peggy Cantrell

Summary: We walked to Curley Maple Shelter. Once there, we replaced the old graffiti board with a new one and picked up trash. On the way down, we cleared one small blowdown, 7" with a Silky Gomboy(darn, should always bring at least the Big Boy). We

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broke up one fire ring and identified a couple others for later removal. We identified areas for possible future maintenance and noted a few large blowdowns to remove on the next walk.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 4/23/2021

Purpose: Maintain Section

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Rick Lott, Michael Watts

Summary: It was a beautiful spring day with an abundance of wildflowers. The Station at 19E indicated they had 80 hikers over night. We trimmed back rhododendron and other growth. We also dug out waterbars and picked up trash along the trail close to 19E. We attempted to dam up the side of the creek where it had been overflowing onto the trail just south and uphill from the bridge past Apple House.

Reporting: Van Hovey

Date: 4/26/2021

Purpose: Maintain Section

Location: Section 19b, Curley Maple Gap Shelter - Nolichucky River, Jones Branch

People: Van Hovey

Summary: I cut and removed two blowdowns, a 6" diameter and a 10" diameter with the Katanaboy. The trail is dry and passable.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 4/27/2021

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 2a, From McQueens Gap to Backbone Rock Trail

People: Carl Belcher, Ted Malone, Steve Wilson

Summary: On a beautiful spring day, we used a chainsaw to cut 20 blowdowns starting from McQueens Gap road crossing and hiked trail north 6 miles to the intersection with Backbone Rock side trail. We also cleaned water diversions, cut back encroaching vegetation, picked up trash, and dismantled fire rings. We came down the 2.5-mile side trail and met Ted, who was shuttling us and hiked up the side trail while lopping branches. We saw roughly 16 north-bound A.T. thru-hikers and 4 south-bounders who were flip flopping by starting at Harpers Ferry. This clears the A.T. of blowdowns north of McQueens Gap to the TN/VA state line, since a previous chainsaw crew cleared the trail from Backbone Rock trail to the state line earlier this year.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 4/27/2021

Purpose: Pull Garlic Mustard

Location: Section 4a, US 421 (Low Gap)

People: Dan Firth

Summary: I pulled 145 pounds of garlic mustard from along the road in the vicinity of the trail and the parking lots.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 4/27/2021

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US321

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We cut back weeds and bushes from the Iron gate to the 321 trailhead. As I was bending down to cut some thorny weeds, my dog, Maya, forewarned me of a cottonmouth snake lurching in the brush, saving me from getting bit.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/27/2021

Purpose: Inspect trail rehab with Konnarock

Location: Section 16b, Greasy Creek Gap to Iron Mountain Gap, Just south of Greasy Creek Gap

People: Stephen Eren, Carl Fritz, Jerry Kyle

Summary: Jerry Kyle, Konnarock Crew Leader, and Stephen Eren, SORO Trail Facilities Manager, and I inspected the upcoming May work just south of Greasy Creek Gap. We accessed Greasy Creek Gap from Tiger Creek. There seem to be plenty of locust trees available from what we felled last year to make platform steps and some check dams. Otherwise, they will do some shaping of trail to get water off.