June has arrived and another great month of weather is upon us. I encourage everyone to get outside and enjoy the great activities this area has to offer.

Don’t forget when you are done to log on to our TEHCC trail wiki site and continue keeping others up to date!

A few quick updates:

1) We are deciding to forgo a late summer picnic and will be putting our time and resources towards the Fall dinner. This is the second year in a row where one of the dinners was cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic; but our plan is to return to the twice-a-year pattern as soon as we can.

2) Continue to join us for hikes around the area. Our steering team is doing a great job of organizing these events for everyone. We would love to (safely) see everyone out there.

75th Anniversary Incentive for Hiking and Maintenance

In the February 2021 club newsletter, the Steering Committee announced that they wanted to encourage hiking and maintaining the TEHCC section of the Appalachian Trail by providing an incentive of a pint glass sporting the club logo for hiking at least 40 miles on the A.T. or completing 40 hours of trail maintenance (non-meeting) during 2021. The reward is open to all club hikers and volunteers. So far, three club hikers have qualified with trip reports in the club newsletter – and another three appear to be working on the hiking challenge. For field work and travel, eighteen club volunteers have already reached the incentive level for trail maintenance – and another twenty might be on course if tripling their YTD hours for 2021. Please note that it is not too late to begin by joining the club hikes or maintenance trips. The challenge will remain open until the end of 2021.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>A.T.: Little Rock Knob</td>
<td>Andy Steffan</td>
<td>919-928-4738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>Second Saturday, Hiking with Tools!</td>
<td>Tim Stewart</td>
<td>423-483-9329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 17</td>
<td>Steering Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Kyle Haas</td>
<td>423-229-5869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>A.T.: Carver’s Gap to Grassy Bald</td>
<td>Chantel Roberts</td>
<td>608-636-3207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>Second Saturday, Hiking with Tools!</td>
<td>Tim Stewart</td>
<td>423-483-9329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Steering Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Kyle Haas</td>
<td>422-229-5869</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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 fellowshipping 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 Welcome, so come on out, meet some new hikers and join the Fun...and maybe get your hands a little dirty! June Hiking with Tools! Will be from Hughes Gap south to Clyde Smith Shelter.

Scheduled Events

A.T. Hike: Little Rock Knob, Saturday, June 5, 2021
Leader: Andy Steffan, (919) 928-4738
Rating: Easy/Moderate, 4.4 round-trip, 825 ft gain
Time: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Location: Hughes Gap Parking
The hike will start from a small Hughes Gap Road parking area and follow the A.T. through hardwood forests to the Little Rock Knob Overlook (el. 4918’) with 180 degree views to the west. Some reports say it is Tennessee’s 37th highest peak. Round trip will be 4.4 miles. Bring plenty of water and snacks!
For directions: Visit the TEHCC Wiki Page OR follow these directions: ~1 hour drive from Johnson City. Take exit 32 on I-26. Turn left, then in 0.4 miles turn right onto Unicoi Drive. Then in 0.7 miles, turn left onto Hwy 107. In 14 miles turn left onto Hughes Gap Road. In 4.5 miles, the small parking area will be on the left.

A.T. Hike: Carver’s Gap to Grassy Bald, Saturday, June 26, 2021
Leader: Chantel Roberts, (608) 636-3207
Rating: 5.0 mi, 1080 ft elevation gain, moderate difficulty
Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Location: Carver’s Gap Trailhead, TN-143, Roan Mountain, TN 37687, Roan Mountain TN 37687
Come me Join me for a hike to Grassy Bald! We will meet at 9 am at the Carvers Gap Trailhead. Contact Chantel Roberts for more information! If you ordered a TEHCC t-shirt and haven’t picked it up yet, you can pick your items up at this hike!

TEHCC T-Shirt Pickup
Submitted by Chantel Roberts
TEHCC decided to celebrate our 75th anniversary by allowing members to order t-shirts. The t-shirts have now been ordered and should arrive by 6/7/21. If you ordered a t-shirt, pickup times and locations are listed below. For more information, email Chantel Roberts at chantel.roberts@eastman.com.

- Friday, June 11th from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm at the B310 Employee Center room 112
  Address: Toy F. Reid Employee Center, 400 S Wilcox Dr, Kingsport TN 37660.
- Friday, June 25th from 4:00 pm – 2:00 pm at the B310 Employee Center room 112
  Address: Toy F. Reid Employee Center, 400 S Wilcox Dr, Kingsport TN 37660.
  Note: B310 technically closes at 5 pm, so if they kick Chantel out of room 112, she will still be there outside of B310 near the parking lot to continue to hand out shirts until 6 pm if necessary.
- Saturday, June 26th before, during, and after the hike from Carver’s Gap Trailhead Parking Lot to Grassy Bald at Roan Mountain State Park
  Google maps link to location: Carvers Gap Trailhead - Google Maps

Recollections for Club’s 75th Anniversary – Trail Relocations
Submitted by Carl Fritz
From 2001 to 2014 alone, TEHCC built over 30 miles of trail relocations and completed almost 9 miles of trail rehab. A good example was all the relocations performed from Cloudland to Hughes Gap in the Roans. This project was near the last of our major relocations because it was so difficult. And the club had to gain experience building trail in exceedingly difficult terrain before we could tackle it.

When the Optimal Location Review was done in the early 90’s with ATC, US Forest Service and TEHCC members, the steep climb of the Appalachian Trail from Hughes Gap to Cloudland was eroding badly. But the team had no suggested solution.

As the club maintainers gained confidence by 2007, Ed Oliver and Jim Foster spent many days laying out possible switchbacks over much of the terrain by just pushing as far to one side of the ridge as they could before hitting an impenetrable rock formation or rare species. The NEPA process was challenging for the US Forest Service because of the rare plant and animal life on this mountain.

Ed’s hand drawn map of the relocations is shown to the left.

In 2010, we started the first digging at Hughes Gap. The organic soil closer to Cloudland was not stable enough to hold a trail; so much of the trail was paved with rock. With sledgehammers and wedges, big rocks were broken and moved. TEHCC used smaller groups, like a dozen from Wright State University and over 120 people each day over four days of Hard Core. In fact, this project was the last relocation done with Hard Core. Also, we had many weekly
outings with just TEHCC. Over those five years, 403 volunteers contributed 11,660 hours to improve the Appalachian Trail – not counting the seven weeks Konnarock Crew invested over three years. Finally, in May 2014, the entire project was finished. So, eight years from the initial flagging and after five years of digging, we had essentially a new trail in this section.

While the club was putting in this effort in the Roans, we also rebuilt Curley Maple Gap Shelter and completed major relocations of the Appalachian Trail at Watauga Lake, Pond Mountain, north and south of Stan Murray Shelter, White Rocks Mountain, Nolichucky Expeditions, Little Rock Knob, south of TN 91, and Backbone Rock Trail.

Now there are about 36 switchbacks from Hughes Gap to Cloudland. The original 2.6-mile trail had become 4.6 miles after we built 3.25 miles of new trail. For years, the hikers who remembered the old trail thanked us for the improvement.

Morgan Sommerville, ATC SORO Regional Director in April 2018 wrote, “Yesterday I hiked from Jane Bald to Hughes Gap. It is the first time I have hiked the Cloudland to Hughes Gap section since y’all finished doing all the relocations. What a great job! Beautifully laid out and great construction throughout. Thanks!”

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Diego Beeker
Karis Perry
Julia Farber
Pat Perry
Sinisha Mahendra
Kristen Rabideau

For the Record

Watagua Dam Hike, Saturday, March 27, 2021
Alex Lyttle reporting

We were able to log another 7.6 miles on the Appalachian trail last Saturday. Unfortunately we were caught in the rain just as we were crossing the dam on our return trip. Good times and lively conversation were had by all, and nobody died. Attendees were Jonathan Shumaker, Teni Butler, Alex Lyttle, and Rachel Stammen.

A.T.: US 19E to Big Hump Mountain, Saturday, April 10, 2021
Jacob Lustik reporting

The hike from highway 19E to Big Hump Mountain took place on a brisk Saturday morning. The temperature at the bottom of the trail was about 60°F, and the wind chill along the trail on the way up made it feel a bit more like a winter hike. Even with the cold weather, early spring seemed to have taken hold on the trail as dense foliage had begun to creep toward the trail. About 3 miles up on the trail, the trail was clouded by a dense cloud/rainstorm making for limited visibility for the rest of the way up to Big Hump Mountain. Despite the non-ideal weather conditions of the hike, the trail remained in good shape with little to no sign of erosion and no obstructions due to fallen trees or overgrown plants. Due to the weather at the top, the hike yielded little reward in terms of a view. Nonetheless, logging 10 miles on the trails is never a bad feeling. The hike ran from about 8:30 AM to about 11 AM. I was the only individual in attendance for the event.

A.T.: Carver’s Gap to Roan High Knob, Saturday, May 1, 2021
Andy Steffan reporting

The hike started just after 10 am. Even in the first weekend in May, the parking lot at Carver’s Gap was starting to fill up. It was an absolutely gorgeous morning/afternoon weather-wise; so perfect that I do not think a single hiker broke a sweat. The hike trekked through the fir forest along the A.T. for two miles, past the Roan High Knob A.T. shelter and the site/remains of the Cloudland hotel. About one mile in, there was a recently downed tree across the trail that involved some climbing over. We passed several section or thru-hikers on the trail. After two miles on the A.T., we continued on
the Cloudland Trail for another mile to enjoy the Roan High Knob Bluff overlook all to ourselves for a great rest-break and lunch. There was a neat splintered tree from a very recent lightening strike on the Cloudland Trail section. Then we hiked back the way we came, for a round-trip mileage of approx. 6.9 miles (~4.5 total miles on the A.T.). Gary Bond attended (a new member and previous thru-hiker) and was a great companion for the trip with myself and my wife, Jackie.

**Laurel Run Trail, Saturday, May 8, 2021**  
*Jonathan Shumaker reporting*

It was a humid morning for a hike on May 8. The hike was a short one up to the falls in Laurel Run Park. On the way back we took the spur trail up to the overlook. The trail to the overlook was not as traveled as the wide trail up to the waterfall, but it was still passable and the view was good. Attending the hike were Jonathan Shumaker and Hanieh Niroomand.

**Laurel Falls Hike, Saturday, May 15, 2021**  
*Chantel Roberts reporting*

The weather was sunny but cool as we set out on the trail to Laurel Falls. There were several types of wildflowers blooming, including a few early rhododendrons. The slanted layers of rock were interesting. The Appalachian Trail followed the river for most of the hike, until I accidentally took a blue-blazed side trail that led to an AT shelter and then back down many steep steps to the falls. The hike is usually 4.6 miles, but with the added distance it probably ended up around 5 miles. The falls were loud and beautiful bright white! My dog Zeik loves the water so he was very excited and wouldn’t stop barking. We ate some snacks and then headed back on the correct trail, following the river, passing some nice camping spots, eventually back to the parking lot. Attendees were Gary Bond, Chantel Roberts, and Joshua Grant.

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**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](http://tehcc.org/wiki/Recent_Hikes). See the following table for hikes that were added to the Trail Wiki in May. Club led hikes are highlighted green.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Trail(s)</th>
<th>Hike Distance</th>
<th># of Hikers</th>
<th>Tags</th>
<th>Reported By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13-Mar-2021</td>
<td><strong>Rattlesnake Ridge</strong></td>
<td>8.55 mi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jacob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comment: Hike came in at 8.55 miles, 2442 ft of elevation. Trail condition was good, a few thorn bush stalks crossing the trail towards the top of the trail. No access issues. Attendees: Jacob Lustik</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-Mar-2021</td>
<td><strong>Iron Mountain Gap to Carver’s Gap</strong></td>
<td>15.4 mi</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kyle.Haas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-Apr-2021</td>
<td><strong>Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mountain Gap</strong></td>
<td>11.2 mi</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kyle.Haas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comment: Hiked with Jonathan Shumaker and Teni Butler. Hike was well maintained and the rain held off for most of the hike!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-Apr-2021</td>
<td><strong>Dennis Cove Rd to Wilbur Dam Rd</strong></td>
<td>7.6 mi</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>TEHCC</td>
<td>Alex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comment: We were able to log another 7.6 miles on the Appalachian trail last Saturday. Unfortunately we were caught in the rain just as we were crossing the dam on our return trip. Good times and lively conver...more</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17-Apr-2021</td>
<td><strong>Carver’s Gap to US19E</strong></td>
<td>14.8 mi</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kyle.Haas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comment: Great hike once again. We did this as a point to point hike so cut the distance in half. The descent from Big Hump to 19E is still deceivingly tough at the end of the hike.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-Apr-2021</td>
<td><strong>Dennis Cove Rd to Wilbur Dam Rd</strong></td>
<td>12.8 mi</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kyle.Haas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-May-2021</td>
<td><strong>Iron Mountain Gap to Carver’s Gap</strong></td>
<td>6.9 mi</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>TEHCC</td>
<td>Andysteffan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comment: Hike started just after 10am. Even in the first weekend in May, the parking lot at Carvers Gap is starting to fill up. It was an absolutely gorgeous morning/afternoon...more</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07-May-2021</td>
<td><strong>Sinking Waters</strong></td>
<td>2.14 mi</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cats</td>
<td>Jshumaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comment: Good afternoon hike!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08-May-2021</td>
<td><strong>Laurel Run Trail</strong></td>
<td>3 mi</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jshumaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Bays Mountain Road</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Indian Pipes Trail</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Cherry Knobs</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comment: The falls and the overlook were both great to see. It was a cool morning and the trail and park did not have much traffic. Attending the hike were Jonathan Shumaker and Hanieh Niroomand.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-May-2021</td>
<td><strong>River Mountain Road, Bays Mountain Road, Cliffside Trail, Indian Pipes Trail, Cherry Knobs</strong></td>
<td>9.95 mi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fpbrooks</td>
</tr>
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A.T. Maintenance Reports

**Reporting:** Vic Hasler  
**Date:** 4/6/2021  
**Purpose:** TEHCC and CMC A.T. Partnership Discussions  
**Location:** Zoom meeting  
**People:** Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler  
**Summary:** The two A.T. maintaining clubs held a joint meeting with ATC, SAWS, and USFS (all three districts) via Zoom. A wide range of topics were covered, of which a few key points are shared in this report.  
* Konnarock rehab in Greasy Creek section is happening May 13-20 with half-size paid crew, no Konnarock volunteers, and club volunteers are invited to join.  
* SAWS crew will be working north of Vandeventer Shelter June 23-30 doing tread repair and removing overgrown laurel.  
* Cherry Gap Shelter replacement – Funding availability extended until end of 2022. If an existing USFS design similar to Curley Maple Gap shelter can be identified, then already approved even with minor (non-structural) changes.  
* Sawyer certifications have been extended through October 2021. First aid/CPR extended for one year past the card date, but only for prior in-person training. ATC and SAWS may be able to offer sawyer training courses, thus share need to match when openings are available.  
* Fall 2021 Partnership on Tuesday, November 16 (1-5pm).

From the CMC discussion, highlights reported by Carl were:  
* CMC requested language from USFS to add the application of herbicides to their Volunteer Service Agreement.  
* CMC’s Check-in/Check-out policy still in development with a flowsheet rather than verbiage.  
* USFS indicates that a future need besides volunteer hours will be trail mileage; however, definition of what is wanted for trail mileage is unknown.

**Reporting:** Elzear Lemieux  
**Date:** 4/27/2021  
**Purpose:** A.T. Maintenance  
**Location:** Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter to TN 91  
**People:** Elzear Lemieux, Emily Lemieux  
**Summary:** We mowed down grasses on the trail using a Weed Eater, cut back vegetation along the trail, and checked the water sources. We also picked up trash.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz  
**Date:** 4/27/2021  
**Purpose:** Cut grass at Overmountain Shelter  
**Location:** Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter  
**People:** Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, "Poncho 420"  
**Summary:** Ted mowed the camping area while Paul trimmed and dug out some drainages. With the help of Poncho 420, I sawed up all the brush and logs that had been drug onto the open area to provide firewood or benches. He also helped me refasten a leg on the picnic table. We resealed the second floor access with screws and cut down the stair risers. Hikers are cutting up sleeping platform supports for firewood. We cleared all the leaves out of the access road culvert pit. This is a project that needs to be done at least every three years. About six years ago, the road was being washed badly. We could not find the receiving end of the culvert. Roots had grown into the compacted leaves. We eventually found the culvert entrance about five feet down.

**Reporting:** Tony Messina  
**Date:** 4/29/2021  
**Purpose:** Paint blazes  
**Location:** Section 2a, Backbone Rock Trail - Abingdon Gap Shelter  
**People:** Renee Messina  
**Summary:** Renee refreshed and painted blazes from Abingdon Gap Shelter to Guthook phone app mile 463.1, about halfway to Backbone Rock trailhead.
Reporting: Greg Kramer  
Date: 4/29/2021  
Purpose: Barricade McQueen's Gap from truck traffic  
Location: Section 3a, McQueen's Gap - Spring 2.3 miles N of Low Gap McQueens Gap  
People: Greg Kramer, Dan Firth, Richard Carter, Dean Baird, Carl Fritz, Tim Steward, Washerman, Tony Messina, Van Hovey, Joe Morris, and Bob Peoples  
Summary: Four wheelers have been going to the Holiday Inn Shelter near McQueen’s Gap for many years. Greg and Joe put in posts and log barriers 3 years ago. This didn’t deter them much. At the Gap, three steps and ugly rocks were installed in the dirt mound that was put in years ago to divert vehicles. Two-hundred feet up the trail near a tree on the right side beside the ditch, we placed three very large rocks and many smaller rocks. We used the grip hoist on a 2-to-1 pulley to pull these rocks into place. We hope that will deter the four wheelers for now.

Reporting: Pat Loven  
Date: 4/29/2021  
Purpose: Trail maintenance  
Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Road to Canute Place  
People: Pat Loven  
Summary: I worked south from Dennis Cove painting blazes and doing some very minor trail work. Trail condition is remarkably good for this time of year. With this effort, combined with work a few weeks ago, from Canute’s north, this entire section has been covered. So many NOBO’s today I lost count. Really a nice day to be out.

Reporting: Van Hovey  
Date: 5/1/2021  
Purpose: Clear blowdown  
Location: Section 18, North bound from Beauty Spot  
People: Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey  
Summary: We found a blowdown across the trail approximately 1¼ miles north of Beauty Spot, about 14”-16” in diameter. There was no need to cut it; we were able to remove it with a rock bar.

Reporting: Vic Hasler  
Date: 5/1/2021  
Purpose: Lop uphill rhododendron  
Location: Section 20b, 0.3 mile trail south of Temple Hill Gap to 0.8 mile  
People: Vic Hasler  
Summary: It was a dark and bumpy ride, then uphill hike to reach Temple Hill Gap at sunrise. Walking quickly south to the azalea point, roughly 0.3 miles in, I began steadily cutting the uphill rhododendron growth and dead fallen branches to give the hikers more space to avoid the lower lip of the tread. The six-hour effort, on a day with crystal blue sky, covered a half-mile, clearing three feet of space on the uphill side and tossing the brush below the path. The days was also hosted by the color purple, with violets, crested iris, gaywings, and primroses in bloom along the A.T.

Reporting: Michael Watts  
Date: 5/2/2021  
Purpose: Remove blowdowns  
Location: Section 15b, Cloundland Hotel to Hughes Gap  
People: Rick Lott, Kevin Sedgewick, Mike Watts  
Summary: We cleared over a dozen blowdowns of various sizes between Ash Gap and Hughes Gap. We also blocked snag which was leaning across the trail. Just north of Ash Gap, we reset a locust step that had been dislodged by a blowdown. We also did a limited amount of trimming.

Reporting: Jake Mitchell  
Date: 5/6/2021  
Purpose: Weed and mow  
Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter  
People: Jake Mitchell  
Summary: I mowed the field by the barn, picked up some trash, and cleared fire rings. Several thru-hikers reported excellent trail conditions north and south.

Reporting: Greg Kramer  
Date: 5/6/2021  
Purpose: Create and clean water diversions  
Location: Section 11a, Near Dennis Cove
People: Greg Kramer, Tom Smith, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart, John Beaudet, Van Hovey, Dan Firth, Bob Peoples, Joe Morris, Richard Carter, Aaron Brown, Tony Messina

Summary: We created or cleaned 31 water diversions, rehabbled 236 feet of trail, installed 9 steps, and cut down 3 blowdowns. Many hikers were on the trail.

Reporting: Joel Zabel
Date: 5/8/2021
Purpose: Check spring; clear blowdowns
Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to Unaka Mtn
People: Ed Brading, Yong Li, Joy Zabel, Joel Zabel
Summary: We cleared 6 to 8 small blowdowns with handsaws; the largest was 8" in diameter. We checked Cherry Gap Shelter and the shelter water source. We also replaced the shelter notebook. The trail is in good shape.

Reporting: Tim Stewart
Date: 5/8/2021
Purpose: 2nd Saturday Hiking with Tools
Location: Section 11b, Bitter End
People: Tim Stewart, Lori Mirrer, Elaine Frantz
Summary: It was a great-weather day for another Hiking with Tools! event. We went in from Bitter End and did some rhodo lopping for several hours. We also removed a couple of minor blowdowns. We had expected a few more participants, but they did not show up.

Reporting: Dan Firth
Date: 5/8/2021
Purpose: Routine maintenance
Location: Section 4a, US 421 to Double Springs Shelter
People: Dan Firth and Michaela Hofbauer
Summary: We finished painting blazes on the upper half of the section, removed a blowdown, cut briars, and enjoyed the wildflowers.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman
Date: 5/10/2021
Purpose: Scout with SAWS crew leaders
Location: Section 6, 1.5 miles section north of Vandeventer Shelter
People: Scotty Bowman
Summary: I hiked in with the SAWS crew leaders for the upcoming hitch to continue the trail rehab project started last season and to show camping options for the crew. It was a wet day, but a good one. There were plenty of wet hikers out there; I counted 32. The section between Wilbur Dam Rd and Vandeventer Shelter is clear with no issues to report. I did pick up some trash at the shelter, but not too much for this time of year.

Reporting: Dan Firth
Date: 5/11/2021
Purpose: Manage invasive species
Location: Section 4a, US 421 - Low Gap
People: Dan Firth, Dave Hrivnak
Summary: We removed 302 pounds of garlic mustard from Low Gap.

Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: 5/13/2021
Purpose: Inspect trail, signage
Location: Sections 3 and 4, McQueen's Gap to TN 91
People: Ed Speer
Summary: Ed hiked section from McQueen's Gap to TN 91. He installed a water sign at the spring south of McQueen's Gap. There were a couple of minor blowdowns that he will clear soon. There seemed to be some need for a blaze post north of the shelter because a camping hiker asked where trail north was. He will address because there are no trees in the area. Trail conditions are good and he was appreciative of the new steps and trail work near McQueen's Gap and Low Gap. That afternoon, right before Trail Days, he saw 58 north bounders and 2 south bounders.

Reporting: Joe Morris
Date: 5/13/2021
Purpose: Routine Maintenance
Location: Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap to Greasy Creek
People: Joe Morris
Summary: I mowed the trail from Iron Mountain Gap to Weedy Gap. I saw a 22 thru-hikers. I noticed quite a bit of mud in places where I had never seen it before; maybe a combination of additional hikers and all the rain. I removed one small blowdown.

Reporting: Joe Morris  
Date: 5/14/2021  
Purpose:  
Location: Section 16b, Greasy Creek Gap  
People: Carl Fritz, Van Hovey, Joe Morris  
Summary: We worked with Jerry Kyle and the Konnarock Crew building substantial locust steps and a large water diversion. The "crew" will be working on the trail until 5/20/21 and we plan on joining them again, as a club on Wednesday the 19th.

Reporting: Carl Fritz  
Date: 5/17/2021  
Purpose: Inspect for blowdowns and remove trash  
Location: Entire TEHCC Section  
People: Christian Straubs  
Summary: Christian is thru hiking. He captured problem blowdowns with photos and location by prearrangement. None of the blowdowns were major trail outages. Most of the blowdowns were in White Rocks Mountain or Big Laurel Branch Wilderness. He also picked up trash at each of our shelters.

Reporting: Tony Messina  
Date: 5/19/2021  
Purpose: Refresh blazes  
Location: Section 1: TN/VA state line to Backbone Rock Trail  
People: Renee Messina, Sylvia Alvarado  
Summary: Renee and Sylvia refreshed blazes along the A.T. from the Backbone Rock trail junction and the TN/VA state line. They still need to work back south from the junction for a couple of miles. They encountered about a dozen thru-hikers, two SOBOs and ten NOBOs.

Reporting: Tim Stewart  
Date: 5/19/2021  
Purpose: Check section  
Location: Section 11b, Canute Place to Bitter End, Moreland Gap Shelter  
People: Tim Stewart  
Summary: While everyone else worked with Konnarock, I decided to check my section via Moreland Gap Shelter. The drive in was passable, but the dirt road appeared to be in worse condition than usual. Hiking from the dirt road, the water source is encountered first. It was flowing well. I continued on the blue-blaze trail and made it to the shelter. A couple of tents were there, and while I painted over the graffiti board, a few hikers arrived. I hiked south to Hard Core Cascades, lopping rhodos along the way; and took a lunch break at the cascades with a couple of hikers. Upon returning to the shelter, I removed 6 minor blowdowns. At the shelter I added another coat of paint to the graffiti board, cleaned the firepit, and removed some trash.

Reporting: Joe Morris  
Date: 5/19/2021  
Purpose: Rehab trail and construct steps  
Location: Section 16b, Greasy Creek Gap and Trail South  
People: Tony Messina, Carl Fritz, Tom Smith, Richard Carter, Van Hovey, Elzear Lemieux, Jordan Rhea - W.S., Halley Burleson - W.S.  
Summary: Jerry Kyle and the Konnarock crew (Ben, Forest, and Rachel) put the finishing touches on the Greasy Creek rehab today with help from TEHCC and Jordan and Halley of Wild South. The crew had a great week. Trail south of Greasy Creek Gap the highlights of the work include: 514 feet of new definition to grade treadway, 50 log steps, 4 log waterbars, 3 log check-dams, and 25 cubic feet of crib.

Reporting: Paul Benfield  
Date: 5/19/2021  
Purpose: Trail Maintenance  
Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter  
People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery  
Summary: We mowed the camping area at the shelter and trimmed weeds as needed. Four hammocks were hung in the downstairs area where the sleeping platforms had been in the closed shelter. There were four packs hung on the wall and other needed camping gear was placed around the wall. Live coals and burning wood were left in the fire rings. The no camping signage on the rear of the shelter had been defaced to indicate camping was authorized in the shelter. The signage on the front of the shelter had not been defaced. We extinguished the fire. It appears a four wheeler had been going up the Overmountain Trail and bypassing the gate. It appears someone at sometime had cut a link out of the chain securing the gate and the link was left on the
ground. The gate was secure when we arrived.

**Reporting:** Dean Baird  
**Date:** 5/20/2021  
**Purpose:** Inspect and maintain trail  
**Location:** Section 9b, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail  
**People:** Dean Baird  
**Summary:** I defoliated under the power line with a string trimmer and hedge shears. As time goes on, there is more "brushy growth" than grass. Never fear; there is still plenty of Toxicodendron......

**Reporting:** Joe Morris  
**Date:** 5/21/2021  
**Purpose:** Rehab Trail  
**Location:** Section 16b, Greasy Creek Gap  
**People:** Joe Morris  
**Summary:** This was one last touchup of the Konnarock work: a final rehab of 42 feet above the last set of stairs created Wednesday by the crew. This area near Greasy Creek Gap is complete.

**Reporting:** Dean Baird  
**Date:** 5/22/2021  
**Purpose:** Inspect and maintain trail  
**Location:** Section 9b, Appalachian Trail on South Pond  
**People:** Dean Baird  
**Summary:** I trimmed vegetation on the railroad grade section of the A.T. on South Pond and cleaned a water crossing.

**Reporting:** Dean Baird  
**Date:** 5/22/2021  
**Purpose:** Inspect and maintain trail  
**Location:** Section 9b, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail  
**People:** Dean Baird  
**Summary:** I trimmed vegetation in the wilderness portion of the blue-blaze trail. Also I spent some time examining the powerline perpetual step problem, noting that there is erosion at the edge of several steps and that many steps are going to have to eventually be replaced to prevent the erosion from undermining the trail. Additionally, approximately 20" of sidelog work is needed at the sharp switchback that goes to the powerline section from the trailhead.

**Reporting:** Vic Hasler  
**Date:** 5/22/2021  
**Purpose:** Lop uphill rhododendron – next increment  
**Location:** Section 20b, Guthook phone app miles: 339.5 to 338.9, or 0.6 mile  
**People:** Vic Hasler  
**Summary:** In the twilight, I removed a five-cut blowdown from the forest road, then proceeded to where I had stopped maintenance on the A.T. three weeks earlier. More rhododendron and azalea growth were cut to provide a wider path. Roughly two-dozen NOBOs and one SOBO passed me. I reached my turnaround time when the temperature rose into the low 80s and my water supply also indicated to go back. Mountain laurel is past its peak, but white-blossom trilliums were seen.

**Reporting:** Tony Messina  
**Date:** 5/23/2021  
**Purpose:** Section Maintenance  
**Location:** Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mountain Road  
**People:** Tony and Renee Messina  
**Summary:** We patrolled our section and found it to be in good condition. We were happy to see how little mowing is needed, but there is a lot of rhodo to lop. We took pictures and Guthook phone app mileages for potential rehab locations and will forward those to the Thursday crew, but none of those are high priority. There is a fair amount of locust available to harvest along the trail and evidence of some very good past trail work. Surprisingly, we saw ZERO hikers today.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris  
**Date:** 5/24/2021  
**Purpose:** Purchase lumber for bog bridges  
**People:** Joe Morris, Robin Dean  
**Summary:** We purchased pressure treated lumber for three 12-foot bog bridges and transported the material to Watauga Work Center in Hampton.

**Reporting:** Richard Carter
Date: 5/25/2021  
**Purpose:** Routine maintenance  
**Location:** Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap  
**People:** Richard Carter  
**Summary:** I walked the section and made notes for special project needs. I checked the shelter and spring, picked up a small amount of trash, cut back a modest amount of briars and weeds (which are not too badly overgrown yet), and brushed in two shortcuts. There were quite a few long-distance hikers, wonderful weather, and numerous beautiful purple trillium in bloom.  
**Reporting:** Joe Morris

Date: 5/27/2021  
**Purpose:** Rehab trail and construct steps  
**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to Cherry Gap Shelter  
**People:** Tony Messina, Van Hovey, Tim Stewart, Kevin Sedgwick, Elzear Lemieux, Heather Waldroup, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Amy "Bookworm" Sternheim  
**Summary:** The crew created a 9-step staircase about one mile south of Iron Mtn Gap. Carl, Tim, and Heather hiked to the shelter to inspect its condition and identify resource materials for further rehab opportunities. Additional outings will take place in this section.