



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

September 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](#) (2021 Steering Committee Chair)

We hope everyone is getting a chance to enjoy the trails, particularly the A.T. during our 75th anniversary year! Thanks to all of our maintainers for keeping the A.T. trails in great shape. Don't forget to log your hikes/maintaining hours to win a custom TEHCC pint glass.

Due to the current COVID climate and the limitations of activities/participants, the Steering Committee is making the difficult decision to postpone the Fall Dinner from the 10/9 date. Things seem to change monthly during the pandemic, so we thank you for bearing with us during these past couple years. We will keep you all updated should there be any further changes as we look for a new potential date.

Fall Dinner is currently being postponed from the 10/9 date. Stay tuned for updates.

Feel free to reach out to me with your thoughts and/or concerns around a Fall versus Spring Dinner. This input will help the Steering Committee gauge interest as we round out the year.

As always continue to hike safely and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Kyle Haas

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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://www.riverapes.org/calendar.html>.

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
September 11	Second Saturday, Hiking with Tools!	Tim Stewart	423-483-9329
September 11	APEs Nolichucky 1 st Timer's River Trips and Picnic	Wesley R. Bradley	423-647-1321
September 16	Steering Committee Meeting	Kyle Haas	423-229-5869
September 18	A.T.: Indian Grave to Beauty Spot	Andy Steffan	919-928-4738
October 2	A.T.: Indian Grave Gap to Lookout	Jonathan Shumaker	417-389-6987
October 9	Second Saturday Hiking with Tools!	Tim Stewart	423-483-9329
October 9	Bays Mountain Fire Tower Loop	Kyle Haas	423-229-5869
October 21	Steering Committee Meeting	Kyle Haas	423-229-5869

Details of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, Third Thursday of Each Month, Noon to 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.

Tuesdays: Johnson City Roll Practice, 7:35 – 9:00 pm

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

Come join the Jackson Action Wagon, [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. Feel free to contact Wesley for any other questions.

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.

Biweekly on Saturdays through September 11, Lower Watauga, Class I-II, 3 pm

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

We will launch from Riverside Park in Elizabethton behind the Ballpark at 3 pm. Call first to check and see if it's on! Please be prepared for cold water and wear appropriate gear. PFDs, helmets & spray skirts are required. 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. It will take until 7:30ish to transfer boats to our vehicles.

Directions: From W Elk Ave in Elizabethton turn at the Miso Teriyaki House onto West Mill Street, take the first street on the 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>

Second Saturday of Each Month: Hiking with Tools!

Contact: [Tim Stewart](#)

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! Email Tim for details.

Scheduled Events

APEs Nolichucky 1st Timer's River Trips and Picnic, Saturday, September 11, 2021

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

Time: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location: [USA RAFT NOLICHUCKY](#), 2 Jones Branch Road, Erwin, TN 37650

It's time for our club's crown jewel river trips on the Gorge and Lower Noli!

Nolichucky Gorge River Trip (Class III/IV*) led by APEs Cruise Director, Wesley R. Bradley.

Cost: The club will cover \$5.00/each fee for all current APE members to ride the USA Raft bus shuttle (includes parking pass).

- Please be mindful of the water level for the day and your whitewater skill set. Please also ensure you bring a whitewater boat suitable for the river conditions.
- Meet at the USA Raft Outpost (the trip take-out) at 11:00 AM. When you arrive on site, go to USA Raft store to fill out waiver and pay \$5 for parking pass. USA Raft will shuttle our group up to the put-in using one of their raft buses and boat trailer. This will make our logistics for shuttling very easy and our cars will be waiting for us back at the take-out when we get off the river!

Lower Nolichucky River Trip (USA Raft Outpost to Sawmill – Class I-II) led by TBD.

- Plan to play a lot and maybe even stop and go swimming, with a snack break included to make it a fun day on the Lower!
- Meet at the USA Raft Outpost (This will be the trip put-in) at 12:00 PM to set shuttle for the Lower Noli Trip. When you arrive on site, go to the USA Raft store to get free parking pass. Mention APE event for free parking pass.

See [APEs Nolichucky 1st Timer's River Trips & Picnic](#) for complete details and other information on what to bring, how to RSVP, and lodging/camping information. Feel free to contact Wesley with any questions or concerns. We hope to see you on the Noli!

A.T. Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot, Saturday, September 18, 2021

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

Rating: Moderate, 4.6 miles round-trip, 1000 ft gain

Time: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Location: [Indian Grave Gap Trailhead](#), Indian Grave Gap, Poplar NC 28740

Let's enjoy a great 4.6 mile round trip hike from Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot. We will meet at the trailhead parking area and hike to the top to enjoy some wonderful 360° views. Details of the hike can be found on the TEHCC Trail Wiki. Bring plenty of water and snacks!

A.T. Indian Grave Gap to Lookout, Saturday, October 2, 2021

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

Rating: Moderate ~ 3 miles

Time: 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Location: [Indian Grave Gap Trailhead](#), Indian Grave Gap, Poplar, NC 28740

This hike is southbound on the AT from Indian Grave Gap. There is a spur trail to an overlook just off the trail about 1.3 miles from the start of the hike. We will plan on meeting at the McDonalds in Colonial Heights at 8:30 am and be at the trailhead by 9:30 to start hiking. We will be done in time to get back to town to eat lunch.

*Please [register](#) or let the hike leader know if you plan on joining and where you plan on meeting.

Bays Mountain Fire Tower Loop, October 9, 2021

Leader: [Kyle Haas](#)

Rating: Moderate ~ 4.7 miles

Time: 12:20 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: [Bays Mountain Nature Preserve](#), Kingsport, TN 37660

Let's meet at the Bays Mountain Nature Preserve before heading out. This hike does have some elevation changes and we may decide to not go up to the Fire Tower and just complete the loop around the reservoir. Feel free to reach out for more information.

Recollections for Club's 75th Anniversary – Dinner Meetings and Socials

Submitted by Vic Hasler

When Frank Oglesby convinced Tennessee Eastman Recreation that an outdoor club should be formed, the social aspect appealed to the many employees and returning soldiers in its early years. In addition to numerous hikes, the club would arrange get-togethers. Perhaps this component was behind the following statement with the ballot for the 1953 club elections:

"It is customary to elect at least one girl to the steering committee every year. The advantages of this should be obvious."

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The club did not publish its own newsletter until the 1980s, thus the Tennessee Eastman Company newspaper, which was read widely across the region, distributed the notices about upcoming events.

The first social might have been the Halloween 1946 barn dance and steak fry, which the newspaper reported included round and square dancing, apple cider, and a hayride on a horse-drawn farm wagon. Music was provided by a record player, while a microphone allowed the guests to introduce themselves.

By the mid-1970s, the annual arrangement of two dinner meetings hosted by the club's Steering Committee was in place, as were the club planned schedules of hikes, canoeing trips, and special activities over January-June and July-December blocks. Roughly 80 members and guests feasted Sunday evenings on club-prepared meals of hamburgers, steaks, oysters, or even lobster when its market price was deemed to be cheap. Several potluck meals were organized when inflation hit in the early 1980s. The events were typically held in the company's metal cabin/Quonset hut at Eastman Park (building now used for grounds maintenance equipment storage). After club awards and business, the presentations were made from slide carousels and 8mm movie reels. Many shared pictures from club-arranged trips including backpacking the Appalachian Trail in Maine (Colins Chew and Ray Hunt), hiking in England and Switzerland (Bob Miller), and whitewater canoeing (Warren McLain and Terry Dougherty). In 1980, Stan Murray reviewed ten years of challenging excursions the club undertook hiking to Mt. LeConte lodge via creek versus trail routes (practice not likely allowed now in the Smokies).

In 1993, Ted Malone initiated a separate Maintainer's Dinner Meeting to review the work crew assignments and priority tasks while introducing US Forest Service partners and ATC's Morgan Sommerville. The menu was BBQ/slaw, which has not changed over the years.

In 1997, the two annual dinner meetings (Spring/Fall) moved to the new Eastman Lodge with its spacious (and warm) banquet room. Due to company requirements, the menu switched to catering from area firms: Giuseppe's, Sugar & Spice, Barberitos, and various BBQ places as arranged by the Steering Committee. In 1993, Terry Dougherty provided a seafood boil from a Bristol restaurant. Over the years, a myriad of topics has been shared, including adventures experienced, Appalachian Trail features, and regional development of outdoor assets. With many (sometimes too many...) photographs shared via now PowerPoint decks, the evening's presentations can be wonderful travelogues. The events also provide a forum for presenting club awards and service recognition from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and US Forest Service.



For adventure, the club has visually visited the African plains (thanks to Bruce and Mary Cunningham), Colorado San Juan Mountains (Ed Oliver), Switzerland (Bob Miller, more recently Hal Yungmeyer), Snake River (Ed Montgomery), Kilimanjaro and later Machu Picchu (Mike Watts), and New Zealand (Bill Tindall, and later Mary Ellen Virost). The Rev. Charles Maynard in 2010, then a director for UMC Holston Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries, shared stories about early 20th century hikers along the crest of the Smokies (before there was an Appalachian Trail) who wore formal jackets and ties – carrying wicker backpacks and a large box camera. A.T. thru-hike stories have been shared by Diana Niland and Frank de Nobriga. We have also learned about the Mountains-to-Sea Trail and Cumberland Trail as these paths were being developed.

Please join the Tennessee Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club as we celebrate 75 years of outdoor recreation and maintenance of a simple footpath called the Appalachian Trail.

Lotta Murray, Most Creative for A.T. Volunteer Brand – Graffiti Boards

Article by Vic Hasler

Back in May 2021, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy hosted a challenge to encourage original pieces of art that captures the energy of what it means to be an Appalachian Trail Volunteer. Vic forwarded the message to Lotta Murray due to her creative nature and being a section maintainer with her husband Ken. She submitted this picture of a graffiti board and her inspiration (below in italics) for this concept which has been successful at controlling graffiti on TEHCC shelters.

I have been a trail maintainer in east TN for about eight years. Prior to that I thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2011. Coming into a shelter and seeing the graffiti on the walls always bothered me. I started thinking of ways to reduce or eliminate the graffiti. A hiker wants to leave their mark on the Trail, so I decided to give them a dedicate spot to write their name or thoughts... and the graffiti





boards were born. I initially put up one in the No Business Knob shelter and amazingly, it filled up and graffiti on the wall more or less disappeared. Now most of the shelters maintained by TN Eastman trail club have a graffiti board and it seems to satisfy a hiker's need to leave their mark. [Note: The graffiti on these boards has to be cleared regularly before the space is fully saturated. The club has developed an effective cleaning technique.]

Lotta's submission won the most votes for Most Creative, thus she received a large backpack, a hydro flask bottle and next year's ATC calendar.

More than 10,000 Tennessee A.T. Plates Issued

Article by Vic Hasler



A question I had for years was what happens when the “odometer” turns over – that more than 10,000 Appalachian Trail specialty license plates have been issued using the four numerical spots? Since this situation would be common for any Tennessee specialty plate, I tried to watch for its occurrence – and recently saw a TN A.T. tag that gave the answer: The AT0000 format becomes OAT000, so a first digit followed by the stacked AT and then three more numbers. The most recent reporting quarter of new registrations (22% of total) and renewals (78%) indicates just under 5,000 A.T. specialty plates are active on Tennessee roadways. The program receives

\$15.60-17.50/tag which is used to support the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, land management, and grants to applying organizations. Over \$600,000 has been raised in Tennessee since its start in 2011 with roughly 20% distributed by the grants. For 2021, these are:

- Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park repairing food storage cables at shelters and campsites along the A.T.
- Northeast Tennessee Regional Economic Partnership supporting Meet the Mountains Festival and a diversity council
- Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy trapping feral hogs to protect rare plants along the A.T.
- Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards put a maintenance crew for the A.T. in the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness
- Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club constructed new bog bridges at Bishop Hollow and Bradley Gap, and is having the accessible portion of the A.T. at Osborne Farm mown to control the tall grass

Consider getting one when you renew your license plate.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Salvatore Arena
Mary DiChiara
Sara Madgett
Daniel Miller-Grossman

Rebecca Bozman
Sheila Farley
Stephen Maggard
Daniel Morgan
Ryan Wilson

Clayton Brandenburg
Gene Gunter
Evan McDougall
Kevin Navarro Rosario
Alan Wessel

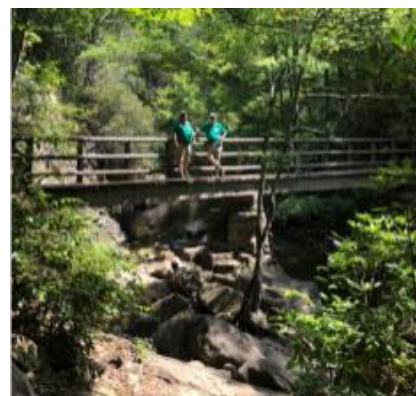
DLanie Cannon
Lily Luan
Emily Miller
Michael Price

For the Record

A.T. VISTA: Dennis Cove to Laurel Falls Shelter, Saturday, August 7, 2021

Vic Hasler reporting

The 2021 [Appalachian Trail VISTA](#) program included a set of hikes along the A.T. and nearby trails with a montage to be released in October 2021. Hopefully, in 2022, an in-person event can be held in New York, and then in our area for 2023. For this Saturday, the early morning overcast skies burned off to have sun with a gentle breeze. The hike to Koonford Bridge was quickly accomplished, so the walk was extended to the shelter for 3.8 miles round-trip in just over two hours. The A.T. was fairly busy with many individuals and families enjoying the rails-to-trail section heading to Laurel Falls, which we did not visit for lesser level of difficulty. Participating were Vic Hasler, Steve Perri, plus Jeff and Rhonda Smith with their sheltie Kina.



Buffalo Mountain, White Rock Loop Hike, Saturday, August 14, 2021

Jacob Lustik reporting

The hike around Buffalo Mountain's White Rock loop took place on a sunny Saturday morning. It was relatively hot out and notably humid, a combination which made the trip to the top of the mountain a bit more cumbersome. The trails on Buffalo Mountain have grown quite dense over the course of this summer, with diverse and plentiful plant life crowding the trails at every turn. Though difficult to move through at times, the dense growth helped greatly in keeping the trail an enjoyable temperature and the morning air enjoyable. A little past the halfway point, the trail provided its classic payoff of a great panoramic view of Unicoi and Johnson City with blue skies floating overhead. At the end of the day, it was a very enjoyable 5.5-mile hike for the sole attendee, myself!

Warriors Path Overlook Trail, Saturday, August 28, 2021

Josh Hayes reporting

While the temperature on this day was blistering, the hike at Warriors Path State Park was anything but. With shaded and well maintained trails, Warriors Path has much to offer. Razvan Marinescu and myself hiked Overlook Loop and all associated spur trails. We were still in the mood to look around, so we hiked the well maintained disc golf course so Razvan could see more of what the park had to offer! We hiked approximately 2.5 miles of trails and then another 1.5-2 miles, of course. The trails were well maintained aside from one or two of the spurs (which were clearly marked with red/green/white paint). There were however, a few big pregnant spiders getting ready for cooler weather and Halloween!

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 viewable at http://tehcc.org/wiki/Recent_Hikes. Following are the hikes reported since July 1, 2021. Hikes with green background were club-led hikes.

Date	Trail(s)	Hike Distance	# of Hikers	Tags	Reported By
05-Jul-2021	Bark Camp Lakeshore Trail Bark Camp Lake	4.25 mi	1	GPS Logged	Vhasler
	Comment: Purpose was to map Camp Bark Lake Trail. Very quiet, except for a few fisherman and kayakers, since the campground is closed for water system repair. Rhododendron in bloom.				
05-Jul-2021	Kitchen Rock Trail Bark Camp Lake	0.64 mi	1	GPS Logged	Vhasler
	Comment: Second of two trails to map for trail wiki for a quick workout.				
06-Jul-2021	Laurel Run Trail Bays Mountain Park		1	GPS Logged	Vhasler
	Comment: The hike was to collect the GPS track to post on the Laurel Run Trail wiki page. However, I spent time on the first pass opening up the 0.9-mile loop path using a swing blade and loppers ...more				
22-Jul-2021	Lakeside Trail Bays Mountain Park	2.8 mi	4		Jshumaker
	Comment: This was helping control points along the trail for the Moonlight Hike for FunFest. Attendees were Vic Hasler, Alex Lyttle, Jacob Lustik, and Jonathan Shumaker.				
31-Jul-2021	Fall Creek Loop, Devil's Backbone Warriors' Path State Park	3 mi	4		Jshumaker
	Comment: Was a great hike. Attendees were Noah Daugherty, Beth Bayens, Teni Butler, and Jonathan Shumaker.				
14-Aug-2021	Laurel Fork Gorge	5.5 mi	2		Andysteffan
	Comment: Enjoyed a tune-up hike before a longer hiking trip. Falls was running pretty well. Several people were swimming under the falls and they looked a little cold so we didn't join them.				
21-Aug-2021	Channels Trail The Channels Natural Area Preserve	6.4 mi	1		Vhasler
	Comment: Parked at the upper gate at sunrise to beat the heat. Uphill purpose was to repaint the red blazes. More of the rhododendron on the side trail to The Channels was lopped ...more				

Date	Trail(s)	Hike Distance	# of Hikers	Tags	Reported By
30-Aug-2021	Overlook Warriors' Path State Park	2.5 mi	2		Josh
Comment: This was intended as an introductory hike and three newer people had committed and didn't show but it was okay because one of our new members Razvan Marinescu was able to attend this easier hike to te... more					



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Rich Ritter, Alan Liggett

Date: 7/21/2021

Purpose: Make note of what needs doing; Minor lopping

Location: Section 18, FS230 switchback to Indian Grave Gap

People: Richard Ritter, Pat Kenney

Summary: We did minor lopping of low hanging vegetation. We also noted what tools will be needed for the OTHC (Johnson City Old Timers Hiking Club) work days, July 25 and 28.

Reporting: Rich Ritter

Date: 7/25/2021

Purpose: Cut weeds along small section before weather sets in

Location: Section 18, FS230 Switchback to Beauty Spot

People: Rich Ritter, Pat Kenney, Joe Gervais, Dave Polon

Summary: This was a pre-cursor to the main OTHC crew coming on Wednesday, July 28.

Reporting: Rich Ritter, for the Johnson City Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: 7/28/2021

Purpose: Clear trail

Location: Section 18, FS230 switchback to Indian Grave Gap, complete section except previously done

People: Rich Ritter, Pat Kenney, Dave Polon, Joe Gervais, Maureen McCarty, Tim Richardson, Wayne Jones, Lana Scott, Sharon Begley, Lannie Treece, Stephanie Saxsma, Joanne Mahanan, Jeannine Edwards, Bill Strang, John Kimball

Summary: The OTHC team (pictured below) cleaned and rebuilt water diversions, cut weeds, and removed one blowdown with handsaws. We had one string trimmer break down, so one 3/4 mile section was left undone. The main Beauty Spot section had heavy growth that required blades and follow up with string trimmers. It should be bushhogged, but is very passable now.



Reporting: Saylor Fox

Date: 7/28/2021

Purpose: Check trail conditions, water sources, and shelter

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap - Cloudland Hotel

People: Saylor Fox, Bettye Boone

Summary: We checked the trail condition. There is a blowdown of several small-to-medium sized spruce at the upper end of our section (trail near Cloudland). We can remove them with our Silky saw and will do so on Friday or early next week. Also, some weeds are encroaching on the trail near Toll House Gap. Bettye will cut the weeds on this portion while Saylor removes the blowdown. We took a new journal to the shelter; the last one disappeared. The water at the shelter is very minimal; surprising as we have had lots of rain lately. The water source at Carver's Gap is running well.

Of concern, there were several campers with tents pitched behind the signs that say, no camping behind this sign/sensitive area. We took a few pictures, but did not address with the campers. To whom do we report this? Forestry Service? AT Conservancy?

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 7/29/2021

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Michael Watts

Summary: I worked on the upper half of the section, completing summer weeding. I also removed a tangle that was partially blocking the trail. I discovered a group of blowdowns midway down the blue-blaze trail to the spring. One tree split, but still has a hinge connection to the trunk above head height. This tree brought down the top of a neighboring tree, which is now broken but still connected. The second tree is holding up the trunk of the first blowdown. The trail is blocked, but there's a bypass passing under the blowdowns. This will be a future work trip.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 7/29/2021

Purpose: Mow weeds and block social trails

Location: Section 14c, Carvers Gap to Yellow Mountain Gap

People: Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Elzear Lemieux, Richard Carter, Tom Smith

Summary: We split up the group. This crew cut weeds from Carvers Gap to an area south of Stan Murray Shelter. We also brushed in a fire ring near Carvers Gap and reinforced the blocked access to the social trails leading to Jane Bald.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 7/29/2021

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Stan Murray Shelter

People: Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Bill Murdoch, Tony Messina

Summary: The other half of the regular Thursday Crew dispatched to the "Barn" and cut seasonal weeds south towards Stan Murray Shelter with hedge trimmers and string trimmers.

Reporting: Rich Ritter, for the Johnson City Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: 7/31/2021

Purpose: Finish cutting weeds along ¾-mile section

Location: Section 18, Fence stiles to Beauty Spot Gap

People: Rich Ritter, Pam Ritter

Summary: This section wasn't complete due to equipment failure on the previous Wednesday. All of Section 18 is now complete for the summer months.

Reporting: Bettye Boone

Date: 8/2/2021

Purpose: Remove blowdowns and cut back encroaching brush on trail

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap - Cloudland Hotel

People: Bettye Boone, Saylor Fox

Summary: Saylor removed blowdowns near Cloudland with our Silky saw. Bettye cut weeds along the trail at Toll House Gap and near the blowdowns at Cloudland with our string trimmer.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 8/5/2021

Purpose: Rehab trail and construct steps

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS 230, switchback Iron Mtn Gap

People: Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Dean Baird, Tony Messina, Greg Kramer, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Van Hovey, Mike Head

Summary: We continued to prepare for the Wright State outing by splitting and staging logs. Some cribbing and step construction

was done at the far end of the work site. We were pleased to be joined by Mike, who found us on the Meetup App. We will continue the prep next week.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 8/6/2021

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds at the camping areas and trails as needed. We also cleared the water pipe, cut back foliage to the water source, and cut back foliage around the camping area.

Reporting: Tony Messina

Date: 8/6/2021

Purpose: Maintain Section

Location: Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mountain Road, Southern half of section

People: Tony Messina

Summary: I cut weeds along the southern half of the section before running out of string due to forgetfulness (extra left at home). I also lopped rhodos throughout the section.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 8/7/2021

Purpose: A.T. Vista hike

Location: Section 10, Dennis Cove to Laurel Falls Shelter

People: Vic Hasler, Steve Perri

Summary: This maintenance occurred on a planned club hike; thus, no hours are claimed. The Dennis Cove parking lot was cleaned of a large black trash bag and other debris. Steve observed that another sign is needed at the intersection up from the falls and high-water bypass – and blaze northbound approaching the shelter. Another hiker alerted us to a 8" diameter x 14" tall hornets nest along the high-water path, which we reported to the Watauga Ranger District in case they have an option to address the hazard. A grocery bag of trash was removed from the shelter; otherwise, it appears to be in good condition.

Reporting: Scotty Bowman

Date: 8/9 - 8/11/2021

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 6, Iron Mountain Shelter to Vandeventer Shelter

People: Scotty Bowman, Matthew Thibodaux, Emily Warren, Calvin Jensen, Jenny Chatwell

Summary: I led a group of Naval Academy volunteers to brush out the trail corridor. We hiked in Monday, August 9, set up camp at a campsite south of Iron Mountain Shelter, and then began brushing for the afternoon. Tuesday, August 10, we continued brushing. Wednesday, August 11, we hiked out to remove a downed red oak with a crosscut that was located just south of Turkey Pen Gap. Then we broke camp and hiked out due to incoming storms. The Iron Mountain Shelter spring is almost dry, there is a small pool located about 100 feet down the water trail that was trickling decent enough. Hopefully the rain will recharge the spring. The stats: 3-mile section brushed out, 4 small blowdowns 8" or less removed, and one 24" red oak removed.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 8/12/2021

Purpose: Rehab trail and construct steps

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

People: Mike Head, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Tony Messina, Greg Kramer, Carl Fritz, Van Hovey, Tom Sahlin

Summary: We finished staging logs for the WSU work day, experimented with a high-line to move soil, and completed a significant ramp and steps.



Reporting: Bill Fuller

Date: 8/13/2021

Purpose: Clear blowdown and trim brush

Location: Section 9a, US321 to Pond Flats

People: Bill Fuller, Amy Branson, Campbell Fuller

Summary: Amy, Campbell, and I hiked about 0.2 mile past the wilderness kiosk to remove a medium-sized blowdown. We also trimmed a lot of encroaching underbrush along the way. It was exciting to see a timber rattler not too far from the kiosk. We also picked up trash at the Shook Branch parking area when we got back to the car.

Reporting: Elzear Lemieux

Date: 8/14/2021

Purpose: A.T. Maintenance

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

People: Elzear Lemieux, Emily Lemieux

Summary: We walked our section and cut back vegetation. The water sources looked good. There is a blowdown 0.2 miles north of the first water source going north that will need to be addressed by a sawyer in the next few months. It can still be walked under.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 8/14/2021

Purpose: 2nd Saturday, Hiking with Tools

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter, Uncle Nick's (Grindstaff Monument)

People: Tim Stewart, Carol Geiger, Jack Geiger, Lori Mirrer, Greg Kramer, Bob Peoples, Rio Berry

Summary: We met at the Cross Mountain Rd Trailhead. Hiking south towards Uncle Nick's Monument we mostly concentrated on lopping rhodos. Most of us payed particular attention to the first spring area, while Greg hiked farther south with a string trimmer for some weed whacking fun.

We stopped for lunch at the campsite after the spring rhodo section. After lunch the lopping crew continued hiking south. The crew size dwindled as some peeled off at different times. Not wanting to leave Greg by himself, and after everyone else had turned around, I hiked until I caught up to him at Uncle Nick's. Greg was able to get much of the weed whacking done up to the monument, including the second spring area.

I thought it would rain, but instead it was just hot -n- humid. It was Jack and Carol's first time out, so I issued them patches. It was a good day!

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 8/17/2021

Purpose: Rehab trail and construct steps

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

People: Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Richard Carter, Tony Messina, Renee Messina, Bill Murdoch, Tim Stewart, Van Hovey, John Beaudet, Caleb Brooks, Robert Gillespie, Shepard Seibol, Tyler Wiley, Matthew Slusser, Allyna Smith, Sierra Hinton, Nicholas Green

Summary: The 21st edition of Wright State University's Maintenance Day was interrupted by Tropical Depression Fred. We gathered at Iron Mtn Gap with the students, but due to concerns regarding safety, the outing was cancelled.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 8/19/2021

Purpose: Inspect trail and minor clearing

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

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed hiked the section and cleared a lot of branches from the recent storm. Both springs are running at a low level. He cut branches off two blowdowns, so the trail is passable. A chainsaw is needed for the top of an oak tree 0.1 miles north of the spring; mostly 16-inch cuts with one 22-incher. An eight-inch dead ash branch is hanging in small trees over the trail 300 feet south of the shelter.

Reporting: Jake Mitchell

Date: 8/20/2021

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Little Hump

People: Jake Mitchell, Joe Morris

Summary: We set out to cut back weeds all the way to Bradley Gap, but a massive blowdown and threatening clouds held us up. We tried out the DR trimmer from the barn all the way to where the trail widens at Yellow Mountain. It was good in sections where it's generally flat, but very challenging to get over steps and waterbars. The worst of the weeds are cut back now. We need another trip to trim the trail along the open areas. Hikers reported lots of weeds between Stan Murray and Grassy Ridge trail.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 8/21/2021

Purpose: General Maintenance

Location: Section 12a, Mountaineer Falls Shelter

People: Scott Ourth, Rio Berry, Bob Peoples

Summary: Scott, Rio, and Bob checked Mountaineer Falls Shelter and removed trash. They found that signage is missing at the tenting area.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 8/26/2021

Purpose: Cut weeds

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

People: Carl Fritz, Richard Carter, Bill Murdock, Ed Speer, Van Hovey, Tony Messina, Mike Head, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris

Summary: We cut back encroaching vegetation along the trail. This trail section is looking very good.