



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

November 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)

I wanted to personally thank you all for a great year of hiking as we start the month of November. We've had so many members and guests join us on the trails this year, so I hope you had as much fun as we did! Keep an eye on our website and newsletters in the coming months for more information on when we'll pick this back up.

Again, due to the current COVID climate and the limitations on activities/participants, because of this, we are making the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 Fall Dinner.

We will NOT have a Fall Dinner. Look out for Spring 2022 Dinner information soon!

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

Thanks,

Kyle Haas

kyle.haas@eastman.com

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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
November 13	Second Saturday Hiking with Tools!	Tim Stewart	423-483-9329
November 18	Steering Committee Meeting	Kyle Haas	423-229-5869
December 16	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.

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. ***November will be the last month of the season for Hiking with Tools! The plan is to resume in either March or April of 2022.**

Scheduled Events

No Scheduled events for November.

2021 Hiking Program Coming to a Close

Submitte by Jonathan Shumaker

We had a wonderful year of hiking with the club. Thanks to all who led and attended hikes throughout the year. There were planned hikes on most weekends from March through October. The hikes ranged from short, in-and-out hikes to long A.T. sections. We logged a total of 73.8 miles in our planned hikes. There were also 8 different hike leaders! Both of these numbers are up from previous years. We look forward to continuing this momentum into next year. As always, if there is any interest in leading or attending hikes, feel free to reach out to me (Jonathan Shumaker: jonathanshumaker@eastman.com) or any other steering committee member. We will start our planned hiking program back up in spring 2022. We also may try to get a frozen waterfall hike planned early next year as a one-off.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

William Anderson
Stephen Gossett

Allison Coultas
Joseph Laney

Anthony Cruz
Rahul Shankar

For the Record

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

Jonathan Shumaker reporting

The morning started very sunny and crisp. A few of us met at the Ingles parking lot in Colonial Heights at 8 am; others joined at the trailhead for the hike out to the overlook just off the A.T. We started hiking a little after 9 am and made it to the overlook in about 1 hour. The group spent a few minutes climbing around, snacking, and soaking in the views of the fall colors from the overlook. The weather was cool and great for hiking. The round-trip hike distance ended up being 3.6 miles. Attending the hike were Alex Lyttle, Andy Steffan, Jackie Steffan, Lauren Pironis, Andrew Zuehlke, Randy Waymire, Teni Butler, and Jonathan Shumaker.



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. Hikes with green background were club-led hikes.

There were no hikes submitted in late September or October.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 9/28/2021

Purpose: Check section

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

People: Kevin Sedgwick, Gloria Sedgwick

Summary: Awesome day to be out on the trail. Gloria shuttled me today. I found a handful of blowdowns; most were rotten and I could handsaw them out. I also cleaned out waterbars and cut back encroaching vegetation. I met one day-hiker and one flip-flop thru-hiker going south.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/29/2021

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 3b, US 421 to 2 miles north

People: Ed Speer, Charles Redd

Summary: Ed and Charles removed 7 blowdowns with handsaws and ropes. Some were older blowdowns previously reported and others were new. They encountered four southbound hikers.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 9/29/2021

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Rick Lott, Mike Watts

Summary: We removed a tangle of hinged blowdowns from the blue-blaze trail to the spring at Doll Flats. Kudos to Rick for the pole saw, come-along, and expert chainsaw work.

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Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/29/2021

Purpose: Obtain materials for bog bridges

Location: Johnson City

People: Carl Fritz

Summary: I obtained metal supplies (rebar, lath, screws, and staples) for the bog bridges in Bishop Hollow and Bradley Gap.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 9/30/2021

Purpose: Maintain trail

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds as needed. We also picked up brush, rocks, and trash in the camping area. We checked the privy; it looks like it needs moving this year. We took down the firering and removed the ashes, filled in holes and low spots in the camping area, and restored the fire ring.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/30/2021

Purpose: Inspect trail and shelter

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

People: Ed Speer, Charles Redd

Summary: The trail was very clear. Both springs at Double Springs Shelter and the spring at the campsite north of there were running well. The shelter is in good shape and has all tools.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 9/30/2021

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS230, switchback 1 mile south of roadside parking

People: Greg Kramer, Van Hovey, Dan Firth, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Bill Murdoch, Carl Fritz, Kevin Sedgewick, Tony Messina, John Beaudet, Richard Carter, Toni Polenz, Aaron Brown, Vic Hasler

Summary: It was a very pleasant day to be out on the trail. We returned to where we had the high school students last Friday. We filled in dirt behind the side logs that we placed last week and continued rehabbing the trail. We completed 502 feet of trail, installed 4 log steps and 5 rock steps. We did have one issue: a horse and rider were on the trail since last Friday. It was definitely a single horse.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/1/2021

Purpose: Inspect trail and remove blowdowns

Location: Section 1, Backbone Rock Trail and nearby A.T.

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Hurricane Eddy was able to find a large "ghost" blowdown that he has been getting reports about. It is on the A.T. about 450 feet north of Backbone Rock Trail junction. It is a dead oak that has blocked the trail. He cleared some small stepover blowdowns, leaners, and grape vines on Backbone Rock Trail.

Reporting: Gerald Scott

Date: 10/2/2021

Purpose: Routine Fall Maintenance

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

People: Gerald Scott, Eric Scott, Harold Wexler

Summary: We cleared limb piles in three different location on the forest service road at Elk River Falls. The limbs appeared to have been sawed or lobbed from the side of the road and left piled in the middle of the road. On the trail, we cleaned water diversions, cut back encroaching vegetation, removed blowdowns, and dismatled fire rings. We also checked the shelter and water source. We saw several groups of section hikers.

Reporting: Derek Haire

Date: 10/2/2021

Purpose: Trail inspection and minor clearing

Location: Section 20a, Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap

People: Derek Haire, Craig Haire

Summary: We inspected the trail and found it to be in fair shape. Some small rhododendron branches required clearing. We picked up trash and attempted to repair a log step at the trail head. We encountered 13 hikers on a pleasant day.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 10/2/2021

Purpose: 2nd Saturday, Hiking with Tools

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

People: Tim Stewart, Lori Mirrer

Summary: Lori and I hiked in from Walnut Mountain Road where we encountered some hikers heading out for a few days. Enroute to the shelter we lopped some rhodos and did some weed whacking. At the shelter, we met a few more hikers heading south to finish their long-distance journeys and the friendly bear (carving, that is). The graffiti board was in need of painting. After lunch, we cleared the water-source trail (top of falls) and then, while Lori applied a second coat of paint to the graffiti board, I hiked down to the falls and the tenting area, picked up trash and checked the water source. Although it was a small group with a last minute cancellation, we had a good outing.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

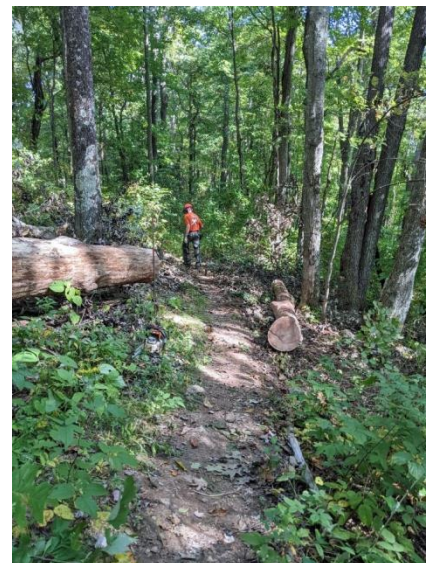
Date: 10/2/2021

Purpose: Clear blowdown

Location: Section 1, 500 feet north of Backbone Rock

People: Greg Kramer, Joe Morris

Summary: We cleared a large blowdown (see pictures below) that hikers had been walking around. A path was cleared below the blowdown, and a short climb put you back on the trail. We can only figure that others had walked by the blowdown when on reconnaissance, expecting the trail to be blocked. We have been searching for this blowdown for more than a month.



Reporting: Van Hovey

Date: 10/3/2021

Purpose: Remove blowdown

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

People: Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey

Summary: We walked in from USA Raft about 1¼ mile in search of a reported blowdown south of Curley Maple Gap Shelter. This is the same one that Joe and Van have looked for. Alas, the elusive search continues.... We met some thru-hikers about 1¼ mile in, coming from Indian Grave Gap, and they reported no such blowdown south of Curley Maple Shelter. We decided to scrub the search and headed out. We removed a couple of rotted trees from the trail, but nothing significant. We continued back to Chestoa to inspect the section from USA Raft to Chestoa. We cut out a couple small limbs poking into the trail; again, nothing significant. The trail is in decent shape.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 10/10/2021

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 8, US 321 to Wilbur Road

People: Gayle Riddervold and Becky Kinder

Summary: We accessed the trail from Oliver Hollow Road to cut a blowdown about a mile north of the iron gate. When we got on the blue-blaze trail, we discovered a horse had been ridden on this trail, then headed north-bound onto the Appalachian Trail. With

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fallen sticks, we removed numerous piles of horse manure, warning several hikers and a jogger about the mess. We also cut back encroaching vegetation and picked up trash. We cut the tree which was 14 inches in diameter with a small battery operated saw. We now use battery operated tools because we are getting older and manual tools are no longer an option. After rolling the tree off the trail, we returned to the car. We never encountered the horse and will go back and beyond the blowdown to see how much manure is left on the trail. We feel the Forest Service should post a sign at the beginning of the blue-blaze trail indicating that horses and bikes are prohibited from using the trail. If this problem persists, taking valuable time away from our usual trail maintenance duties, then we may have to reevaluate whether to continue taking care of this trail. We've worked diligently to keep the lake clean only to have some inconsiderate person litter the A.T. with horse manure.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

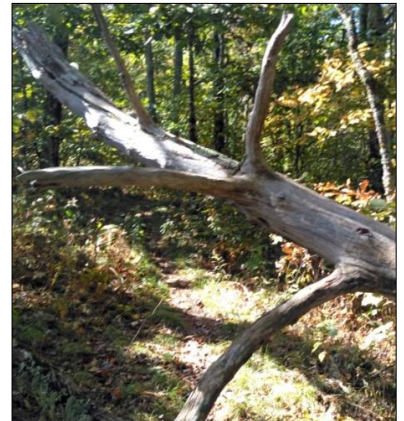
Date: 10/10/2021

Purpose: Clean waterbars and inspect for blowdowns

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Greg Kramer, Betty Kramer

Summary: We cleared four small blowdowns, but left four. They are all step-overs or duck-under (see photos below). The first one is at Guthook mile 448.6, 500 feet south of where we come in from Cross Mountain Rd by the Forest Service Gate. The second is at mile 446.7, just south of the open clearing. The third is at mile 445.8, 50 feet from the Nick Grindstaff Monument. The fourth is at mile 445.4, 0.4 miles south of Nick's. There's no hurry to clean these up as there is easy access around them. We also cut back vegetation. Waterbars were cleaned and are in good shape for the winter.



Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 10/11/2021

Purpose: Install waterbars and rehab trail

Location: Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter, Overmountain Shelter Area

People: Greg Kramer, Bob Peoples, Bill Murdoch, Kevin Sedgwick, Carl Fritz, Tony Messina, Joe Morris;

UNC Charlotte: Katie Steele, Kaitlyn Gosline, Maria Wang, Deanna Glenn, James Convery, Alyssa Golden, D.J. Coch, Karan Gonaguy, Bhaswanth Chiguauputi, Chris Pollaci

Summary: On a perfect fall day, we installed 7 new waterbars and two steps just north of Overmountain Shelter with 10 students from Venture Outdoor Leadership, Division of Student Affairs, University of North Carolina, Charlotte. We also filled in holes and fire rings in the tent area adjacent to Overmountain Shelter. This is a group that has started coming annually on their Fall Break to hike the A.T. on the weekend and work with TEHCC maintenance on the following Monday. It was a great group and successful outing.



Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 10/14/2021

Purpose: Construct bridge

Location: Section 19a, South of Indian Grave Gap

People: Van Hovey, Kevin Sedgwick, Richard Carter, Greg Kramer, Tony Messina, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris

Summary: Erosion from a FS Road one mile south of Indian Grave Gap had created a "gulley" and trail washout. Part of the crew debarmed and dug diversions on the FS Road and the rest of the crew built a bridge across the void. Some final touches on the bridge are required and those will be addressed on Monday 10/18.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 10/18/2021

Purpose: Construct bridge

Location: Section 19a, South of Indian Grave Gap

People: Carl Fritz, Van Hovey, Joe Morris

Summary: We completed the new bridge south of Indian Grave Gap. We installed a handrail, leveled the walking surface, and installed lath on the bridge.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 10/21/2021

Purpose: Rehab trail and construct steps

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS230 switchback

People: Bob Peoples, Joe Morris, Dan Firth, Kevin Sedgwick, Tony Messina, Carl Fritz, Bill Murdoch, Van Hovey, Greg Kramer

Summary: The Thursday crew created 423 feet of cribbed and rehabbed trail. We also created an open rock culvert to drain a wet area during times of run-off. We encountered several southbound hikers on a damp, yet productive, day in the woods.

Reporting: Bill Fuller

Date: 10/21/2021

Purpose: Scout trail and cut brush

Location: Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats

People: Bill Fuller

Summary: I got in a little after-work maintenance, and hiked over two miles up the mountain before running out of daylight. I cut back a lot of encroaching rhododendrons, along with a bunch of low-hanging stuff. I passed one southbound thru-hiker, and two northbound section hikers. The trail was in good shape.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 10/27/2021

Purpose: Relocate privy

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter Area

People: Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Kevin Sedgwick, Bob Peoples, Joe Morris

Summary: We started the relocation of the privy at Overmountain Shelter. We made substantial progress to about a 3-foot depth and, then, ran into rock. The Hilti drill was used to "flake" small segments of rock from the dig. As the sun began to fade, we opted for another trip to finish the task. So, next week we'll finish the privy and also tackle some Bradley Gap rehab. Paul Benfield paid us a visit and that in a word was...awesome.

Reporting: Tony Messina

Date: 10/29/2021

Purpose: Prepare for sawyer class

Location: Watauga Work Center

People: Tony Messina, Carl Fritz

Summary: Carl and I scoped out the Watauga Work Center in prep for the November 20th sawyer class. It will be an ideal venue for the class. Carl also felled a tree in the area behind the center for use in the hands-on portion of the class. Time was spent organizing the class and for other prep work and chainsaw cleanup.

