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
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>Second Saturday Hiking with Tools!</td>
<td>Tim Stewart</td>
<td>423-483-9329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>Steering Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Kyle Haas</td>
<td>423-229-5869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 16</td>
<td>Steering Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Kyle Haas</td>
<td>423-229-5869</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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. 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

Submit 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 Coulta
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.
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 Stewar, 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 dismantled 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 Appalchaian Trail. With
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-unders (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.

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**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, Karon 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 debermed 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.