



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

March 2022

[tehcc.org](http://tehcc.org)

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

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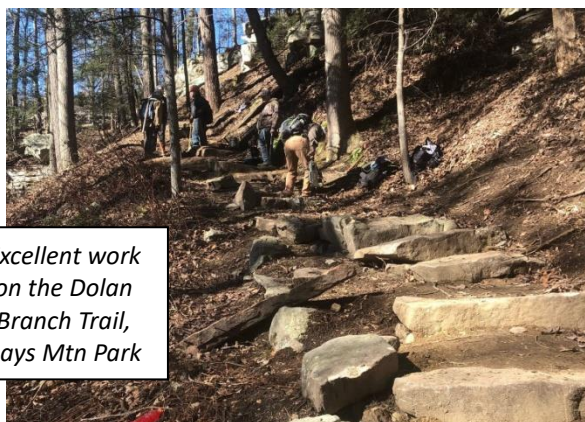
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Excellent work  
on the Dolan  
Branch Trail,  
Bays Mtn Park

## Letter from the Chair

*Submitted by Andy Steffan (2022 Steering Committee Chair)*

With the slightly longer days and wonderful Spring temperatures we've had, it's getting me excited for another year of hiking and outdoor activities. Hopefully the recent decline in COVID cases is a move in the right direction to allow more normal, structured club activities this year. The Steering Committee plans to restart the Hiking Program in April, so stay tuned for those details next month. As always, we would love to have *any* TEHCC member submit and lead hikes. If you have any questions about how to do that, please reach out! We are still hopeful that we will be able to pull off a Spring Dinner, whatever that may look like, so also stay tuned for those details. As a reminder for the coming months, you can always visit the TEHCC website ([tehcc.org](http://tehcc.org)) and go to the "Events" tab to see the calendar and upcoming events.

## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

For the latest, up-to-date information, see [tehcc.org/schedule](http://tehcc.org/schedule).

For additional information on APEs/TEHCC paddling events, see <http://www.riverapes.org/calendar.html>.

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
March 12	Hiking with Tools!	<a href="#">Tim Stewart</a>	
March 17	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1:00	<a href="#">Andy Steffan</a>	423-229-6492
March 19	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9:00 – 2:00	<a href="#">Greg Kramer</a>	
April 9	Hiking with Tools!	<a href="#">Tim Stewart</a>	
April 16	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9:00 – 2:00	<a href="#">Greg Kramer</a>	
April 21	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1:00	<a href="#">Andy Steffan</a>	423-229-6492

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## Details of Upcoming Events

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### Recurring Events

#### **TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, Third Thursday of Each Month, Noon to 1:00 pm**

Contact: [Andy Steffan](#)

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.

#### **Johnson City Roll Practice, Tuesdays, 7:35 – 9:00 pm, and Sundays, 1:00 – 3:00 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.

#### **Weekly A.T. Trail Maintenance, Most Thursdays**

Contact: Joe Morris, 423-571-5201, [atvolunteer@tehcc.org](mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org)

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 134-mile section each week, usually on Thursdays. On-the-job training, tools, and protective gear are provided to allow everyone to quickly engage with the trail. Carpooling is available from several places.

#### **Hiking with Tools! Second Saturday of Each Month**

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 welcome, so come on out, meet some new hikers and join the Fun...and maybe get your hands a little dirty! Email Tim for details.

#### **Bays Mountain Park Trail Maintenance, Third Saturday of Each Month, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Contact: [Greg Kramer](#)

This event is family friendly across all of the park trails. We will meet in the mountain-bike parking area by the maintenance shed. Please bring gloves and safety glasses. If the task requires, hardhats and other safety equipment will be provided as necessary.

### Scheduled Events

There are no "Scheduled Events" for March. Be sure to note the "Recurring Events" above.

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## Recognition of Trail Maintainers for Total Hours

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*Submitted by Carl Fritz*

During 2021 and the pandemic many volunteers maintained the TEHCC section of the Appalachian Trail. During a period when trail usage had increased significantly, 202 volunteers contributed 7670 hours to maintain our 134 miles. It is thanks to everyone that our section is in as good shape as it is. Several of these volunteers received patches for working the specified total hours since 1992. Some were first time volunteers this year and have already reached 50 hours or more. Thanks to all the volunteers.

#### 50 hours

Edward Brading  
Carrie Hovey  
Matt McWilliams  
Li Yong

America Freeman  
Marianne Huff  
Tom Sahlin

Mike Head  
Emily Lemieux  
Eric Scrott

Michaela Hofbauer  
Drew Mayberry  
Scott Thompson

#### 100 hours

Rio Berry

Joy Zabel

#### 250 hours

Renee Messina

Lorri Mirrer

Lotta Murray

Ed Speer "Hurrican Eddy"

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## Trail Maintainer Total Hours (cont'd)

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500 hours

Van Hovey

Elzear Lemieux

Mike Watts

1000 hours

Tony Messina

1500 hours

Dan Firth

18,000 hours

Carl Fritz

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## Welcome to the Rental Fleet: 6-Person Tent, HT-29

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*Submitted by Jonathan Shumaker, Rental Coordinator*

Looking back at the past 3-5 years of rentals from the club, it is obvious that our club members take advantage of the large tents that the club has to offer. The fleet of tents that the club rents out ranges from single person tents/tarps to 6-person tents. Many of the purchases that the club makes for rentals is to replace aging equipment, but the Steering Committee decided to add a 6-person tent because of high demand. The new tent is another REI Kingdom 6 Tent.

The club has one REI Kingdom 6 tent in our rental fleet already, HT-26. This tent has been the most rented tent from the club 3 years in a row. It's definitely a campground tent, weighing about 20 pounds. The hoop design with vertical ends gives a 6' 3" peak height for standing up and lots of vertical space. A central divider creates two rooms. One of the rooms can become a screen room when the fly is rolled up or removed. Set-up will take two folks about 10-15 minutes.

In March, the steering committee will be doing the annual checkout of equipment to ensure that it is in good shape to start the year. We are excited to continue to offer this equipment to be rented from B310. In addition to all the tents the club has to offer, there are backpacks, sleeping pads/mats, and other hiking accessories. Hopefully you can try out some of the equipment this year! For more information go to [tehcc.org/rentals](http://tehcc.org/rentals). If you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to reach out to Jonathan Shumaker, TEHCC Rental Coordinator, at [rental@tehcc.org](mailto:rental@tehcc.org).

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## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

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Joseph V. Sengeh

David Tyler Jones

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## Trail Wiki Hike Summary

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*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](http://tehcc.org/wiki/Recent_Hikes). Hikes with green background were club-led hikes. Following are hikes logged since December 1st.

Date	Trail(s)	Hike Distance	# of Hikers	Tags	Reported By
<a href="#">05-Feb-2022</a>	<a href="#">Boneyard Warriors' Path State Park</a>	3.7 mi	1	Daybreak Dog Hike	<a href="#">Tim</a>
	<b>Comment:</b> Good hike!				
<a href="#">08-Feb-2022</a>	<a href="#">Darwin's Revenge Warriors' Path State Park</a>	2.8 mi	7	Family	<a href="#">EdoBMP</a>
	<b>Comment:</b> New to the area, second family hike. Youngest hiker was 9, no issues. One Geocache along the trail, others in the immediate area.				

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## A.T. Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** Joel Zabel

**Date:** 1/29/2022

**Purpose:** Hike, but it became maintenance

**Location:** Section 8, US 321 to Watauga Dam

**People:** Yong Li, Ed Brading, Jeff Miller, Todd Markwalter, Joel Zabel

**Summary:** This was a planned hike, but quickly required maintenance as a large pine had fallen lengthwise on a narrow part of the trail just below the US 321 parking area. Our group was carrying several small saws, the largest was 18"; so we were able to trim branches and make three cuts of the 12" diameter trunk and push it off trail. We encountered about a half dozen smaller blowdowns on the way to the dam and cleared them all.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 2/2/2022

**Purpose:** Inspect and clear trail

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

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed hiked to Double Springs Shelter with 4 inches of snow still in some areas. He cleaned a fair number of limbs and small trees. At 1.5 miles N of TN 91 there is an 18" oak on the ground. At 2.6 miles there is a 30" hardwood that is 3 feet off the ground. He cleared a path around it, so it is not an immediate problem. The shelter was in good shape, but the shovel could not be found in all the snow. It will probably appear after the snow melts.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 2/2/2022

**Purpose:** Build turnpikes and water diversion

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

**People:** Greg Kramer, Carl Fritz, Tony Messina, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Kirk Bumgarner, Tim Stewart, Van Hovey, Tom Sahlin

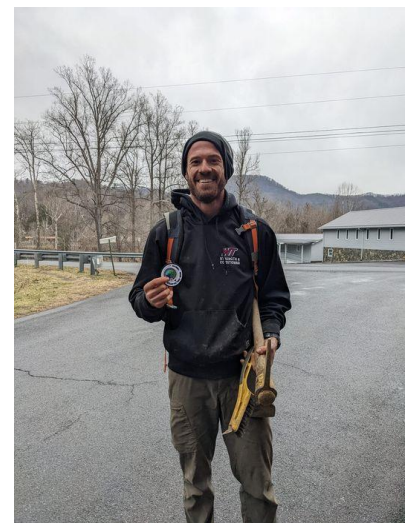
**Summary:** It was another split-crew week at Chestoa. Part of the crew built 54 feet (in 3 segments) of turnpiking near the railroad and adjacent to the Chestoa parking area. The other crew built a 12-foot turnpike near Bridge #2 in Jones Branch and added 6 water diversions.



*Turnpike Construction*



*Completed*



*Kirk, welcome to the crew.*

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 2/7/2022

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats, Shook Branch



**People:** Tom Sahlin, Joe Morris

**Summary:** We removed two blowdowns from the relocation near the "powerlines" adjacent to Shook Branch. We encountered a long section hiker who said "a significant number of trees were down" between Hughes Gap and Dennis Cove, particularly south of and near Dennis Cove.

**Reporting:** Greg Kramer

**Date:** 2/8/2022

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap

**People:** Greg Kramer, Van Hovey

**Summary:** We removed 5 blowdowns that were reported by Phyllis Cairnes.

**Reporting:** Scotty Bowman

**Date:** 2/8/2022

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 7, 2.5 miles north of Wilbur Dam Road

**People:** Scotty Bowman

**Summary:** I got word of about 5 blowdowns and decided to head out to the woods. The day started and ended with the one-mile road-walk as the gate was closed. It was a good warm-up before the hike up the switchbacks. I was able to clear three good-sized blowdowns (with my trusty crosscut and axe) in the first 2 1/2 miles. I still need to get out and clear the last 2 1/2 miles of the section. See "before" and "after" pictures.



**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 2/9/2022

**Purpose:** Inspect and clear trail

**Location:** Section 3b, US 421 Low Gap to emergency shelter on McQueen's Knob

**People:** Ed Speer "Hurricane Eddie"

**Summary:** "Hurricane Eddie" hiked Low Gap to the emergency shelter on McQueen's Knob and back. He cleared the trail of many small branches. He removed an 8" sassafras top that had fallen along the trail and a 12" sassafras that had fallen across the trail. This entire section is in good shape currently.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 2/10/2022

**Purpose:** Construct turnpikes and steps

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

**People:** Greg Kramer, Van Hovey, John Beaudet, Jerry Kyle - ATC, Dan Firth, Joe Morris, Tom Sahlin, Bob Peoples, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart, Dick Martindale, Elzear Lemieux, Tony Messina

**Summary:** The group created 12 steps, 3 turnpikes, a step-over culvert, and improved the footing on the rock ledge above the railroad bridge; a total of 110 feet of rehabbed trail on the day. Jerry Kyle, High Country Regional Manager, of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy joined the crew on an absolutely beautiful February day.

**Reporting:** Tony Messina

**Date:** 2/11/2022

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 4b, Near Double Springs Shelter

**People:** Tony Messina, Carl Fritz, Ed Speer

**Summary:** We cleared one very large blowdown near Double Springs Shelter. It was about 30-inch diameter and 2-3 ft above the ground. We cleared two other smaller blowdowns between the TN 91 trailhead and the shelter. One was about 14-inch diameter and the other about 11 inches. We noted a section about halfway that might benefit from a workday to add checksteps to prevent further erosion. There is no good direction for water diversions to be installed.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 2/12/2022

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 17, 0.4 mile north of Iron Mountain Gap

**People:** Dean Baird, Jennifer Baird, Carl Fritz

**Summary:** Johnson City Hikers had cleaned up a 22" poplar blowdown just south of Iron Mountain Gap as best they could with hand saws. The main trunk was still blocking the trail. Dean cut off a 15' piece of the trunk which rapidly rolled 100 feet down the hill caroming off other trees. The trail is now clear.



**Reporting:** Tom Sahlin

**Date:** 2/14/2022

**Purpose:** Clear trail of down laurel and potential treefall plus inspect trail to Curly Maple Gap shelter per request

**Location:** Section 19a, Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap Shelter Approximately 2 and 2.5 miles from Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Tom Sahlin

**Summary:** A hike from Indian Grave Gap to Curly Maple Gap Shelter included removing many loose branches from the trail. A hiker reported a hanging blowdown a half mile from the shelter. I did not find it. I did find a 9-inch diameter pine tree that may have been the one reported, but it was a mile and a half from the shelter. It was still attached to the stump, but hanging in laurel on the other side of the trail. I cut it loose from the stump and then cut again and moved the log to clear the trail. There was laurel reported to be over the trail close to the tree. I found some hanging within about 4 feet of the trail and removed it. I did not meet any hikers on the trail, but there were footprints in the snow for the first mile. I saw an owl chasing a chipmunk. They passed within 8 feet of me before the owl saw me and flew to a nearby tree. The chipmunk did not thank me...

**Reporting:** Lotta Murray

**Date:** 2/15/2022

**Purpose:** Check for blowdowns

**Location:** Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to No Business Knob Shelter

**People:** Lotta Murray, Ken Murray

**Summary:** The trail was in better shape than expected. We cut back some rhododendron bending in over the trail. One large hemlock was blocking the trail that we removed with the Katanaboy saw. The shelter was in good shape; no trash.

**Reporting:** Van Hovey

**Date:** 2/15/2022

**Purpose:** Remove reported rhodies blocking trail

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

**People:** Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey

**Summary:** We accessed the trail via Martin's Creek and checked the shelter leaving new pens for the board and a notebook. While there, we met one NOBO hiker, Yak, on his second time around. We then scouted the trail to the Nolichucky. No problem issues with rhodies was found. On the way down, we cut back vegetation, rhodies etc. We also dug a few sections to clear some roots and level the treadway. The trail from Chestoa to Curley Maple Shelter is clear and in relatively good condition.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 2/16/2022

**Purpose:** Repair fence at parking lot

**Location:** Section 5, Primary Parking Lot at TN 91

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed replaced two locust rails on the large parking lot fence. The Club had cut them earlier in the day.

**Reporting:** Greg Kramer

**Date:** 2/16/2022

**Purpose:** Resupply locust trees for sidelogs

**Location:** Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter, Forest Service Parking Lot

**People:** Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Van Hovey, Tony Messina, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart, Ed Speer, Jared Jarvis

**Summary:** We cut down and moved a trailer full of debarked 10' side logs and many stakes to the Watagua Work Center.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 2/17/2022

**Purpose:** Inspect and clear trail

**Location:** Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter to TN91

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed hiked the section and cleared it of limbs and rocks. He took a new shovel to Double Springs Shelter but will probably remove it since the old shovel finally showed up after several days. He cleaned out the lower spring at the shelter. He found and marked locusts near a gully where we are considering installing some check steps.

**Reporting:** Greg Kramer

**Date:** 2/20/2022

**Purpose:** Assess Section

**Location:** Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

**People:** Greg Kramer

**Summary:** I walked the trail to assess its condition. There are six large blowdowns, two hazard trees, and three small blowdowns. Waterbars are needed at the crest of the hill and down towards the shelter, and also just before cresting the hill near mile 445.5. Locusts seem to be available and are flagged. Firewood was being stored inside the shelter and the concrete fire ring had lots of ashes. I scattered the wood, removed rocks, and scattered the ashes. Thanks to Scotty Bowman who dropped two trees that had blocked the trail. The water source near Uncle Nicks had complaints about odor.

**Reporting:** Dan Firth

**Date:** 2/20/2022

**Purpose:** Section Maintenance

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

**People:** Michaela Hofbauer, Dan Firth

**Summary:** We cut two small blowdowns, removed numerous branches from the trail, removed the camping closure signs, and picked up several trash bags of trash from the ravine at Low Gap.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 2/21/2022

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

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

**People:** Van Hovey, Joe Morris

**Summary:** Dick Martindale had conducted an excellent recon of the section with photos and locations of three significant blowdowns. Our task grew to eight blowdowns and obstructions with the storms of last week. Van and I hiked in from Dennis Cove and cleared the section. It was a long but productive day.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 2/21/2022

**Purpose:** Inspect and repair trail

**Location:** Section 14c, Engine Gap to Carver's Gap

**People:** Carl Fritz

**Summary:** The winds must have reached 40 mph in late afternoon, but otherwise it was a good day to be on the trail. I repaired some steps and waterbars that were significantly out of alignment. More work will be needed. In the woods, three inches of solid ice remain. I met two ladies coming uphill gingerly in plastic flip flops! Also, I checked out a hazard tree at Bear Branch.

**Reporting:** Michael Watts

**Date:** 2/21/2022

**Purpose:** Clear trail, scout blowdowns

**Location:** Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

**People:** Rick Lott, Mike Watts

**Summary:** It was a beautiful day! We cleared multiple tangles, removed smaller blowdowns, and scouted additional blowdowns for a future trip. We picked up trash close to the highway.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 2/23/2022

**Purpose:** Remove hazard tree

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

**People:** Carl Fritz, Van Hovey; Forest Service: William Ellison, Jim Stellick, Jensen Becken, ??

**Summary:** Thanks go to William who arranged for experienced Cherokee Forest Service feller crews to deal with some dead hemlock hazard trees in Jones Branch. They cut six at bridge four. Then they cut many more beside the trail on their way out. Van drained some water off the trail, but we have more opportunities after the heavy rain last night.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 2/24/2022

**Purpose:** Build bog bridges

**Location:** Watauga Work Center

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Tim Stewart, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** The crew built the bog bridges for Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mtn Road, and Section 8, US 321 to Wilbur Dam Road.