



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

April 2022

tehcc.org

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

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Letter from the Chair

Submitted by [Andy Steffan](#) (2022 Steering Committee Chair)

Hopefully Spring is here to stay now! I'm loving all the things blooming and budding out. Speaking of Spring, and the recent relaxation of Covid requirements, we have the opportunity to renew our gatherings and events. We are also excited to announce the start of our Hiking Program beginning in April! You can find upcoming hikes below in the body of this newsletter or on the tehcc.org, Events section. In fact, we encourage you to sign up/register for hikes using the website Events section. This helps hike leaders plan and have contact information readily accessible. As always, anyone can lead/submit hikes. If you can't figure out how to do this, feel free to reach out to me and I can help. There are also other great events and announcements coming, so please keep reading!

TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting, Friday, May 20, 2022

Here we are, two years later... One impact of COVID-19 was the delay of the Spring Dinner. The Eastman Lodge has been formally reopened for club gatherings by Recreation management; thus Friday evening, May 20, has been set for a do'over. Sarah Jones Decker (aka "Harvest") has agreed to share her experience with Appalachian Trail shelters, as a photographer, writer, and 2008 thru-hiker. Come to enjoy learning about these structures, while appreciating the many hours A.T. volunteers spend keeping shelters in good condition. For more information, see the webpage: sarahjonesdecker.com/appalachiantrailshelters

The charge of \$12/person includes dinner, beverages, dessert, and tip. Attending only the program is free. We'll need a paid headcount to properly size the food order. Please let Steering Committee Treasurer [Josh Haynes](#) know who is coming by Monday, May 16. Make checks payable to Josh and mail to his attention via plant mail to Building 12 or to 2508 Michelle Drive, Kingsport, TN 37660. (See next page for event time schedule and more details.)

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Event	Time	Details
Spring Dinner Meeting, May 20, 2022	5:30pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
Happy "Trails" Hour	5:30pm-6:30pm	Donations accepted for beer and wine, or BYOB
Dinner – Taco bar plus tea/water, coffee and desserts	6:30pm-7:15pm	Moe's Southwest Grill Beverages and dessert by the Steering Committee (\$12 per person)
Club Business	7:15pm-7:30pm	- Update of club activities - Awards
<i>Program: The Appalachian Trail: Backcountry Shelters, Lean-tos, and Huts.</i>	7:30pm-9:00pm	Author Sarah Jones Decker (Marshall, NC)

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
April 9	Hiking with Tools!	Tim Stewart	
April 9	A.T.: Chestoa Bridge to Nolichucky Ridge Cliff, 9:00	Jonathan Shumaker	417-389-6987
April 21	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1:00	Andy Steffan	423-229-6492
April 23	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9:00 – 2:00	Tony Messina	423-677-6650
April 23	Steele Creek Lake Cleanup, 9:00 - Noon	Wes Walker	804-824-5308
April 30	Hike to Sill Branch Falls & Pine Ridge Falls	Andy Steffan	919-928-4738
May 7	Erwin Great Outdoors Festival		
May 7-9	Roan Mountain Hikerpalooza		
May 13-15	APEs 2022 Summer Kickoff Event	Steven Adams	423-650-1293
May 19	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1:00	Andy Steffan	423-229-6492
May 20	TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting	Josh Haynes	
May 21	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9:00 – 2:00	Tony Messina	423-677-6650
May 21	Hike to Margarette Falls	Andy Steffan	919-928-4738

Details of Upcoming Events

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.

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Weekly A.T. Trail Maintenance, Most Thursdays

Contact: Joe Morris, 423-571-5201, 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 is 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: [Tony Messina](#), 423-677-6650

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.

**Note: For April only, this event will be on the Fourth Saturday, April 23.*

Scheduled Events

Hiking with Tools! Saturday, April 9, 2022, 9:30 am

Contact: [Tim Stewart](#)

Hopefully there won't be a freak snow storm in April! Our meeting place will be on the far side of the Chestoa Bridge across from Uncle Johnny's Hostel. (<https://goo.gl/maps/gwLrwTMPdo3a15UH6>) We'll park there and then drive a little farther to another spot with fewer parking spaces. We'll start off easy following Jones Branch near Erwin, TN. There should be some rhodos that need lopping. It should be approximately 3-4 miles of hiking.

As a reminder, some items to bring:

- work gloves
 - plenty of drinking water
 - lunch
 - appropriate cold weather/rain gear (don't know what weather will be like yet, but it is always best to be prepared.)
- If the weather looks real bad, we may have to cancel. Please let me know if you will attend. I hope to meet some new volunteers.

A.T.: Chestoa Bridge to Nolichucky Ridge Cliff, April 9, 2022, 9 am

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

The hike will start at the bridge across the Nolichucky River in Erwin. We will hike up the ridge to see the views over the Nolichucky River. The hike is very uphill (around 1000 ft of gain), but is not overly steep due to the switchbacks cut into the ridge. The full hike will be an in and out hike around 3.5 miles, but can be shortened if the group needs to turn around early.

The group will meet at the trailhead at 9 am. Carpooling from Kingsport/Johnson City can be arranged; just let the hike leader know if you would like to carpool. We plan to be back to the cars with plenty of time to get home for lunch, but bring water/snacks for the hike. Sign up for the hike at <http://tehcc.org/schedule/events/the-next-two-months/> or call or text Jonathan to let him know if you are planning on joining or if you have any questions.

Steele Creek Lake Cleanup, Saturday, April 23, 2022, 9 am - Noon

Contact: [Wes Walker](#), 804-824-5308

Location: Steele Creek Nature Center & Park, Bristol TN; GPS: 36.573185, -82.234249

In addition to the great trail maintenance, river clean-ups (through APEs), and Kingsport area clean-up efforts, here is another great opportunity to volunteer. Past events at Steele Creek Park have focused on the terrestrial portions of the 2,200+ acre park; mostly due to lack of aquatic access around the shoreline. This year, efforts will be increased to police the shoreline margin areas, with special emphasis on fishing line and plastics that endanger wildlife. We are especially interested in getting some paddlers in the water to assist the effort. The following will be provided on-site: trash bags, gloves, and various other collection equipment. Also provided: drinks/light snacks, as well as various prizes for participants (i.e. water bottles, t-shirts, etc).

If you live near Bristol, use the park frequently, or are just want to help out with a good cause, I'd urge you to attend. If you plan to attend or have any questions, please reach out to Wes Walker (Event Chair).

Hike to Sill Branch Falls and Pine Ridge Falls, April 30, 2022, 9:30 - Noon

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

Rating: Easy, 2 miles round-trip (1 mile for each trail), 269' and 170' elevation gain

Location: Clarks Creek Recreation Area, Clarks Creek Road, Erwin, TN 37641

I plan to do two Erwin waterfall hikes in one day. Two for the price of one: 20' falls and 25' falls. Don't worry, they're both short hikes and the trailheads are within 0.2 miles of each other! You're always welcome to attend only one too. We will meet in the parking lot of the Sill Branch Falls trail at 9:30 am to begin the hike and should be off the trail close to lunch-time. Please bring plenty of water and snacks, as we may sit and enjoy the waterfall for a little while before returning to our cars. Open to carpooling. Please reach out with any questions. Hope you are able to join us and do a rain dance so we can see good flows!

APes 2022 Summer Kickoff Event, May 13-15, 2022

Contact: Steven Adams, 423-650-1293

This annual event will be based out of USA Raft's Red Banks location. There will be plenty of festivities including: camping (\$25/night per site), river trips for all levels/skills, boat demos (featuring the Jackson Action Wagon fleet), roll instruction, Go Fast events, training, food, and more! The event is for APes members only, but if you aren't one, that doesn't mean you can't become one; it's only \$15! Please reach out to Steven Adams if interested or to get more details.

Hike to Margarette Falls, May 21, 2022, 9:30 - Noon

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

Rating: Moderate, 2.7 miles round-trip, 879' elevation gain

Location: Margarette Falls Trailhead, 1362 Shelton Mission Road, Greeneville TN 37743

Join us for a lovely hike to Margarette Falls, which is a gradual uphill climb to a 60' waterfall in Greeneville, TN. We will meet in the parking lot at 9:30 am to begin the hike and should be off the trail close to lunch-time. Please bring plenty of water and snacks, as we may sit and enjoy the waterfall for a little while before returning to our cars. There are several places nearby in Greeneville that have take-out if you want to grab lunch afterwards. Open to carpooling. Please reach out with any questions. Hope you are able to join us!

Rental Equipment Checkout Complete – Gear Ready for 2022

Submitted by Jonathan Shumaker, Rental Coordinator

The steering committee got together on March 11 to evaluate all the equipment that the club offers for rent. After completing our checks, all equipment has been confirmed to be in working condition for the upcoming season. The rental fleet includes tents, backpacks, sleeping pads, and other hiking/canoeing accessories. The equipment can be rented by club members from the front desk at B310.

During the rental checkout, we set up and labeled the new 6-person tent, HT-29. We also repaired HT-15, our REI Hobbit 6 tent and put it back in service. HT-15 and HT-29 are two of the five 6-person tents that the club has to offer. We also added a new waterproof first aid kit, HA-2A that can be used free of charge for any hiking, backpacking, kayaking, or other adventure.

Big thanks to Andy Steffan, Josh Hayes, Tim Schaefer, and Vic Hasler for setting up and checking out equipment. For more information on all the gear mentioned in this article, go to 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.

APes Swift Water Rescue Class, June 11 and 12, 2022

Submitted by Andy Steffan

Location: 2000 Jonesborough Rd, Erwin, TN

APes is offering a 2 day Swift Water Rescue (SWR) course. This course is for anyone who might find themselves in moving water, regardless of your current skill level; first time and repeat participants welcome. Are you prepared to rescue yourself or paddling friends? Are they prepared to rescue you? Bring your crew to the clinic and have fun, too! There are only a few spots left! Contact Steven Adams, 423.650.1293, or visit <http://www.riverapes.org/swift-water-rescue.html> for more info and registration.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Byron McCaughey
Aaron J Ables
Kim Stewart
Mike Horton
Michael D Rogers

Jacob Bushelman
Netta Vogt
Landy Elledge
Brinda Gala
James L McCloud

Sidney C Simpson
William "Richard" Tyner
Lisa Hazlett
Mark Jennings
Daniel Kohn

Candace Tanner
Sharon Bumgardner
Michael G Mazzotta
Liane Jennings

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.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Richard Ramsey

Date: 2/20/2022

Purpose: Inspect trail

Location: Section 14a, Doll Flats to Hump Mountain

People: Cheryl Ramsey, Richard Ramsey

Summary: This was just a quick outing to assess conditions after the winter. We removed blowdowns.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 2/23/2022

Purpose: Clear trail and identify locust trees

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

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed cleared the trail from the 3rd stile to the shelter. He removed one 5-inch blowdown at the 2.5-mile mark. He also removed two large rocks at the 2.5-mile mark. He marked 11 locust trees for future harvesting. He saw no hikers.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 2/25/2022

Purpose: Rehab trail and identify locust trees

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

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed removed two blowdowns at the one-mile mark. He marked an additional six locust trees for future harvesting. Also, he removed part of a stump that was in the trail at the 1.5-mile mark. No hikers were seen again today.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 3/2/2022

Purpose: Clear trail

Location: Section 4b, TN 91, north 1.5 mile

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed finished removing the stump from in center of the trail. He also cleaned about a mile of the A.T. north from the last stile on Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 3/2/2022

Purpose: Remove hazard tree

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

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People: Carl Fritz, Rick Lott, Mike Watts

Summary: A branch from a dead beech broke the hand rail and some decking on Bear Branch Bridge early last year. Today we cut down the 36-inch tree so further damage to the bridge would not occur. Carl transported Mike and Rick to Doll Flats so they could cut blowdowns down to US 19E.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 3/2/2022

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Rick Lott, Mike Watts

Summary: We cleared 8 blowdowns and a leaner. We cleared limbs and downed trees at Wilder campsite, cleaned waterbars and did light trimming. We also picked up trash at the highway.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 3/2/2022

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob

People: Jim Foster

Summary: I cleared 8 small blowdowns and tossed a ton of fallen debris out of the trail. Two blowdowns will need more muscle and the Katana Boy saw. I also cleared water diversions. It was a beautiful day and I ran into several hikers.

Reporting: Tom Sahlin

Date: 3/2/2022

Purpose: Inspect trail for blowdowns and any other problems

Location: Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap to almost Greasy Creek Gap

People: Tom Sahlin

Summary: I hiked from Iron Mountain Gap almost to Greasy Creek Gap to check for blowdowns across the trail. None were found except for a couple of branches that were easy to move off the trail. Water is flowing fairly well in the Apple Orchard. I picked up a few pieces of trash; the trail is clean and in good shape except that the water diversions need to be scraped out. I met 3 northbound thru-hikers who reported no blowdowns on the trail back to the Nolichucky River; although there are a few minor step-overs back toward Spivey Gap.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 3/3/2022

Purpose: Install bog bridge

Location: Section 12a, 1.2 miles north of Walnut Mountain Road

People: Van Hovey, Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart, Bob Peoples, Dick Martindale, Tony Messina, Renee Messina, Elzear Lemieux, Joe Morris

Summary: This crew installed a sixteen-foot bog bridge 1.2 miles north of Walnut Mtn Road. Also, the trail was inspected for future opportunities.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 3/3/2022

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and briars, paint blazes

Location: Section 3a and 3b, McQueen's Gap to Low Gap

People: Carl Belcher, Ted Malone, Steve Wilson

Summary: We removed blown down trees with a handsaw, cleaned water diversions, and cut back briars. One large 18-inch blowdown was left for another day, because it will require a chainsaw to remove. It is near the stone wall about 1-mile trail north of Low Gap/Hwy 421 and is no problem for hikers to step over. Otherwise, Sections 3a and 3b are clear and in good shape.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 3/4/2022

Purpose: Clear trail and identify locust tree

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

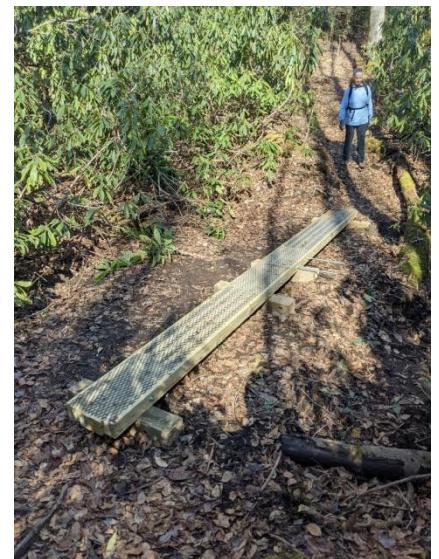
People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed cleared the trail and pruned back vegetation. He filled the hole that was left in the trail from removing the stump. He also located another locust for future trail work.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 3/5/2022

Purpose: Remove blowdown and assess trail



Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to 2.8 miles south

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I hiked from Walnut Mtn Road south 2.8 miles and removed four small blowdowns. I inspected the bridge at 403.5 N. The plan is to remove the bridge and grade the trail over the seasonal run-off. A local hiker stated the trail is "free" of major obstructions all the way to US 19E.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 3/7/2022

Purpose: Visit Round-Bald site

Location: Section 14c, Footpath north of Carvers Gap, Round Bald

People: Tim Stewart, Bob Peoples, Carl Fritz, Dick Martindale, Joe Morris, Tony Messina

Summary: The footpath north of Carvers Gap has deteriorated with much of the gravel no longer existing to Engine Gap. We did a site visit to assess the situation and to create some recommendations for a meeting with agency partners. Despite the wind and the imminent rain, we had good discussions.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 3/10/2022

Purpose: Improve Accessible Trail

Location: Section 4b, TN 91 and across Osborne Farm

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed spread gravel around the base of the bench on the Accessible Trail. He also spread some on selected points (150 feet) of the main trail. He filled holes in the USFS parking lot, although more gravel is needed.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 3/10/2022

Purpose: General Maintenance

Location: Section 16b, Greasy Creek Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

People: Dan Firth, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Elzear Lemieux, Tony Messina, Dick Martindale, Carl Fritz, Van Hovey, Joe Morris, Dean Baird

Summary: The crew rehabbed 165 feet of trail, installing 6 steps and 2 waterbars to improve the final slope leading into the orchard (NoBo). All existing waterbars from IMG to Weedy Gap were cleaned for the spring season.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 3/10/2022

Purpose: Remove blowdowns and hazard trees

Location: Section 15b, Cloudland to Hughes Gap

People: Rick Lott, Mike Watts

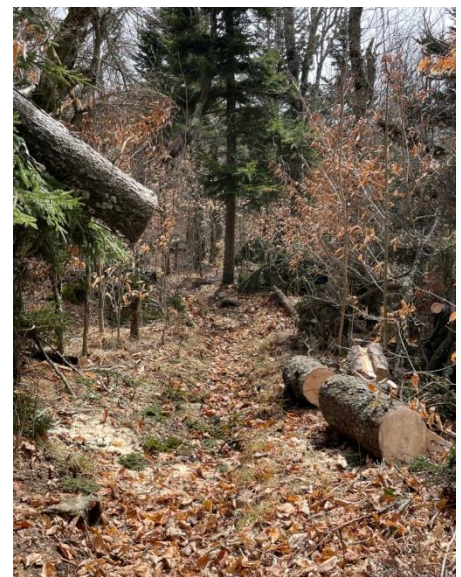
Summary: There was rime ice at Cloudland when we started, but the sun warmed things up later in the day. We removed 4 hazard trees (two large ones at the Ash Gap camping area) and 9 blowdowns, including a large spruce just north of Beartown Mountain summit. We picked up trash from Ash Gap. Several groups of thru-hikers were moving through. All planned to be off the mountain before frigid weather moves in on Saturday.



Before



During



After

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 3/11/2022

Purpose: Repair trail and fence

Location: Section 4b, TN 91 Accessible Trail across Osborne Farm

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed spread more gravel on the Accessible Trail. He also repaired fences at the second gate and at the first stile.

Reporting: Tony Messina

Date: 3/14/2022

Purpose: Chainsaw Training

Location: USFS Watauga Work Center

People: Tony Messina, Carl Fritz, John Beaudet, Greg Kramer, Steve Wilson, Rick Lott, Mike Watts, Chuck Ramsey

Summary: Chainsaw certification class for our TEHCC fellers was conducted on Monday, March 14, by Chuck Ramsey, a volunteer trainer from the Pisgah area. The class consisted of about 2.5 hours of class work in the Watauga Work Center followed by field work nearby. Seven TEHCC sawyers were certified as Class B - Felling. Tony and Carl made preparations for the class and checked the worksite for suitability a few weeks prior, and for accessibility following the weekend snow a couple days prior.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 3/14/2022

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 17, FS Road to Cherry Gap Shelter

People: Van Hovey, Joe Morris

Summary: We received a report via Lotta Murray from Unicoi County Search & Rescue that hikers had encountered several blowdowns between Iron Mountain Gap and Cherry Gap Shelter. The exact location was unknown - so we hiked 2.5 miles south from the FS Road to Cherry Gap Shelter and found two downed trees. The first was on the ridgeline above Cherry Gap and the second was 4/10ths north of the shelter. Both trees were removed and in the 24-inch range. The remaining 6/10ths from the FS Road to Iron Mtn Gap should probably be scouted to determine the existence of any additional obstacles.



Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 3/17/2022

Purpose: USFS Meeting

Location: SAHC (Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy) Buladean Property

People: Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Dick Martindale, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: TEHCC representatives met with USFS, ATC, SAHC, and CMC (Carolina Mountain Club) regarding Visitor Use Management (VUM) and recommendations for the A.T. from Carvers Gap to Round Bald.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 3/17/2022

Purpose: General Maintenance

Location: Section 16b, North of Iron Mountain Gap

People: Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Tony Messina, Dick Martindale, Van Hovey, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Elzear Lemieux

Summary: The crew worked near Iron Mtn Gap (North) cribbing and rehabbing the trail. 180 feet of trail were reconditioned with 12 side logs (approx 110 feet) and 2 waterbars.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 3/17/2022

Purpose: General Maintenance

Location: Section 17, South from Iron Mountain Gap

People: Dan Firth, Tony Messina, Van Hovey, Elzear Lemieux

Summary: After lunch, half of the attendees for the day rehabbed south of Iron Mtn Gap, reconditioning 64 feet with 3 side logs (approx 54 feet of locust log) and one water diversion. In the morning, Tony and Elzear removed 2 blowdowns south of IMG.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 3/19/2022

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 11b, Moreland Gap Shelter to Canute Place

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: I had a report of a blowdown north of the shelter. I went in via the shelter access point. FS 293 is in pretty bad shape; currently passable but might get worse with excessive rain. One area is particularly bad with deep trenches about 4 miles in. I found the blowdown which wasn't too bad, but it did cover the trail. I removed it and a couple of others that were nearby. I continued hiking to Canute Place. I found another blowdown, but it was too big for a handsaw. It is easy to get around, so it can wait until other large blowdowns are reported. I lopped rhodos along the way. The spring was flowing. Once back at the shelter, I applied another coat of paint to the graffiti board, removed a tarp and picked up some trash. The shelter spring was also flowing.

Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 3/19/2022

Purpose: Inspect and maintain trail

Location: Sections 9a and 9b, Shook Branch to Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail

People: Dean Baird, Jennifer Baird, Joe Morris

Summary: We hiked from Shook Branch over Pond Mountain to Hampton Blue-Blaze trail. We rehabed about 61 feet of trail, sawed and removed several manageable blowdowns, and trimmed encroaching vegetation (mostly rhododendrons, laurel, and briars). We also cleared water diversions. Overall trail condition is very good.

Reporting: Elzear and Emily Lemieux

Date: 3/19/2022

Purpose: A.T. Maintenance

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US321

People: Elzear Lemieux, Emily Lemieux

Summary: We removed 4 blowdowns and cut back rhododendron. We inspected the trail and blazes.

Reporting: Phyllis Cairnes

Date: 3/20/2022

Purpose: Maintain shelter

Location: Section 2b, Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Rolla Wade, Phyllis Cairnes

Summary: We repainted the graffiti board, picked up trash, shoveled out the fire ring, cleared the rain gutter, and replaced the shelter logbook. The shovel there has a broken handle, so I need to carry in a new one. We talked with 3 thru-hikers who stopped at the shelter: a man from Germany, woman from Colorado, and a man hopscotching his camper to spend every third night inside.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 3/21/2022

Purpose: Remove blowdowns, cut briars, and clean water diversions

Location: Section 3b, US 421 Low Gap Trail North to Rock Wall

People: Ted Malone, Steve Wilson

Summary: We removed three blowdowns using a chainsaw, including a large 20-inch blowdown which we'd previously reported near the stone wall about one mile trail north of Low Gap/Hwy 421. We also cleared water diversions and cut back encroaching vegetation. We counted eight thru-hikers and two day hikers on this warm sunny day.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 3/22/2022

Purpose: Spring 2022 A.T. Partnership

Location: Zoom meeting

People: Vic Hasler, Steve Perri, Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart

Summary: The Partnership meeting included 22 participants from ATC, USFS, SAWS, CMC, and TEHCC. A few highlights:

- Next formal step for Osborne Farm Accessible Trail improvement and Cherry Gap Shelter relocation would be NEPA Interdisciplinary Team to determine desired level of review.
- Agreement to formally pursue Visitor Use Management program for Roan Highlands. Committee membership to be resolved including from TEHCC and local communities.
- USFS is hiring Recreation Management Specialists in all three districts, which allows for some focus on trails and rivers.
- Fall A.T. Partnership is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, morning at ARD office.

Reporting: Bettye Boone

Date: 3/24/2022

Purpose: Paint graffiti board, clean water breaks, pick up trash

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Cloudland Hotel

People: Saylor Fox, Bettye Fox Boone

Summary: At Roan High Knob Shelter, we painted the graffiti board. It needs to be replaced. Size: 19" W, 3'2" L. I'm glad to replace it, but don't know the procedure or if someone else is supposed to replace it. We also replaced the shelter journal. The previous journal was torn apart and laying on the ground next to the shelter. I found one entry that made me smile, 1/10/22 "What a nice reprieve and shelter from the elements outside...Thank you TEHC!" We picked up trash inside and outside the shelter, finding lots of plastic in the fire ring. (13 gallon bag: 1/2 full) We checked the water source. Someone had taken the PVC pipe out of the original source and we could not find it. The smaller source is running in a small stream. We cleaned out all water diversions (71) from Cloudland to Carvers Gap. There were NO blowdowns! Amazing with the high winds we've had this winter on the Roan.

Reporting: Alan Liggett

Date: 3/24/2022

Purpose: Renew blazes and clear debris along the way

Location: Section 18, Rock Creek Road thru Beauty Spot and up Unaka to road

People: Alan Liggett, Rich Ritter, Sharon Begley, Tim Richardson, Ruthie Edwards

Summary: We renewed the blazes on the OTHC (Old Timers Hiking Club) section of trail, and removed blowdowns. We spoke to multiple thru-hikers going north. Just about all of them encountered some confusion on the previous section of trail where the A.T. meets the trail to Fort Foster. We decided to investigate and went 1.5 miles to where the confusion seemed to be happening. We painted additional blazes to distinguish the A.T. Also, along that 1.5 mile stretch, we renewed blazes which were often very faded, the further we walked.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 3/24/2022

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Greg Kramer, Elzear Lemieux, Joe Morris, Van Hovey, Bob Peoples, Dick Martin

Summary: We built 10 new waterbars and cleared others. We also dismantled fire rings, and cut and cleared 15 blowdowns.

Reporting: Gerald Scott

Date: 3/26/2022

Purpose: Routine Spring Maintenance

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

People: Gerald Scott, Eric Scott, Harold Wexler

Summary: High wind warnings had been issued by the weather service with gusts of up to 30 mph forecasted. While on the trail, we had a large limb fall within 20 feet of us. Along the trail, we cleaned water diversions, cut back encroaching vegetation, and picked up trash. There are a large number of dead pines along this section. We removed 6 dead pine blowdowns 6-12" diameter and 2 poplars about 10" diameter. We were unable to remove one large pine blowdown south of Mountaineer Falls about 100 yards south of the foot bridge. We left another dead pine blowdown on the Sugar Hollow Creek - Campbell Hollow Rd section between Elk River and the cutoff trail to Elk River Falls (see photos). We encounter 4 thru-hikers and several section hikers. While returning to our car on Walnut Mountain Rd, we stopped to clear some limbs from the road, and a large dead pine fell about 30 feet away on to the edge of the road where we were parked.



Blowdown south of Mountaineer Falls



Sugar Hollow Creek – Campbell Hollow Rd Section

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 3/28/2022

Purpose: Check section

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

People: Kevin Sedgwick, Gloria Sedgwick

Summary: Gloria shuttled me. Rains this winter have given the treadway a scoured look. I cleaned a few waterbars and cut back vegetation. I removed one fire ring and added steps. In another area, I rehabed 15' of trail, using an old locust fence post and other logs to crib the trail. Luckily I could pull dirt down to cover it all. I also added two steps. I found that someone had dug and rocked a pool and added a PVC pipe for a water source. They also bermed the tiny stream. I saw about 20 hikers today, not all thru-hikers.