



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

July 2022

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

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

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*Hump Mountain, photo by Joe Morris*

## Letter from the Chair

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

As we get into the hotter months of summer, we should be mindful about proper hydration and taking care of our bodies. If hiking isn't as appealing in the heat of summer, but you want to be outside, consider water sport opportunities to help stay cooler! As our bodies burn energy hiking, whether a several mile day-hike or multi-day hikes, we must be mindful of replenishing that energy. I've always habitually stuck whatever I could find in my pantry, such a granola bar, in my pack regardless of the hiking length, but never really stopped to think about it.

In a little bit of research, I've found that trail bars are the fastest and most convenient way to get calories, and easy to eat while walking if needed. Jerky is also an excellent source of protein and low in fat, with the added benefit of being lightweight. The tried and true fruit-and-nuts options are also great snacks to provide natural sugars, good fats, proteins, and carbs to keep your effort levels sustained. Nut-butter spreads, such as peanut butter, provide a quick energy boost and quickly satisfy an appetite. Now sometimes the only thing I can find in the pantry are cookies, chips, or similar items, which taste fantastic in the moment on the trail and provide the quick rush of energy, but end up being a detriment in the long run.

In summary, each snack provides a little different benefit; so even if you're only going for a short day-hike, I recommend packing several of the energy-replenishing snack options listed above to allow you to attain your goals and to have in cases of emergency where you end up on the trail much longer than anticipated.

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## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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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
July 8	Woody Ridge Trail, 2:30 pm – 6:30 pm	<a href="#">Kyle Hass</a>	812-746-7119
July 9	Hiking with Tools!	<a href="#">Tim Stewart</a>	
July 16	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9 am – 2 pm	<a href="#">Tony Messina</a>	423-677-6650
July 16	A.T.: Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot, 9 am – 12:30 pm	<a href="#">Andy Steffan</a>	919-928-4738
July 16	“Babes on the Waves” Pigeon River Trip	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
July 21	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1:00	<a href="#">Andy Steffan</a>	423-229-6492
July 21	FunFest Moonlight Hike, Meet at 7:30 pm	<a href="#">Andy Steffan</a>	919-928-4738
July 23	Laurel Run Trail, 10 am - Noon	<a href="#">Josh Hayes</a>	
Aug 5 - 7	Hiwassee River Weekend (Class I-II)	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
Aug 6	A.T.: Laurel Fork Falls, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm	<a href="#">Andy Steffan</a>	919-928-4738
Aug 13	Hiking with Tools!	<a href="#">Tim Stewart</a>	
Aug 18	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1:00	<a href="#">Andy Steffan</a>	423-229-6492
Aug 20	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9 am – 2 pm	<a href="#">Tony Messina</a>	423-677-6650

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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.

#### **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 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.

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## **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.

## **Paddle to the Grill, Thursday Evenings During the Summer, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

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

Each week we paddle from Winged Deer Park to Sonny's Marina & Restaurant. Bring your touring kayak/canoe/SUP to meet with The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts ([www.riverapes.org](http://www.riverapes.org)) and TEHCC ([www.tehcc.org](http://www.tehcc.org)). We will launch within 30 minutes of the meeting time to paddle 2 miles to the restaurant. After we eat, we'll paddle back under the stars! As we may be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat and a head light for when we land. PFD's and stern lights are TWRA Regulation. If you aren't on the contact list, contact Deb each week for details. COVID-19 Considerations: Given recent CDC guidance, you are no longer required to wear a mask, but it is suggested that UN-vaccinated individuals have a mask handy when unable to socially distance from others.

## **Lower Watauga, Class I-II, Alternate Saturdays throughout the Summer, 3 pm**

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

We will launch from Riverside Park in Elizabethton behind the Ballpark at 3 pm. Call Deb first to check and see if it's on! Please be prepared for very cold water and wear appropriate gear. PFD's and helmets are required, as well as spray skirts for decked boats. We stop for a break about halfway down the river, so don't forget your snacks. We are usually off the water by 7:00 pm or so, and have transferred boats back to our vehicles by 7:30.

Directions: From W Elk Ave in Elizabethton turn at the MISO Teriyake House onto West Mill Street, take the first street on left onto Ash Street, follow that street to the end and you will see the river. Turn left and pull into the small paved parking area near a covered picnic area. Look for boats! Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/YXgdd1Npwx3N2FCk8>

## **Scheduled Events**

### **Woody Ridge Trail, Friday, July 8, 2022, 2:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

Contact: [Kyle Hass](#), 812-746-7119

Rating: Hard, 4.5 miles, 2913' out and back

Location: [Woody Ridge Trailhead](#), 546 Shuford Creed Road, Burnsville, NC 28714

Join us for this hike, rated as one of the most difficult hikes in the entire NC, TN, VA area. This is a great challenge and a ton of fun to accomplish. I've met ultrarunners on this hike before, talking about how it is used for their training. We will meet at the "Woody Ridge Trailhead" found on Google Maps. Be sure and bring plenty of water and snacks.

### **A.T.: Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot, Saturday, July 16, 2022, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm**

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

Rating: Moderate, 4.8 miles round-trip, 1000 ft gain

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

Join me for a wonderful hike on the AT to the top of Beauty Spot. Although you can drive to the top, where's the sense of reward and adventure in that when you can hike it? We will meet at the parking area at Indian Grave Gap, which is just before the gravel road up to Beauty Spot. The hike is certainly uphill on the way there, but not overly steep. Please bring plenty of water and snacks to enjoy at the top along with the wonderful views. We will go at the pace that's best for the group and will take ample breaks. If you'd like any further details, please reach out!

### **"Babes on the Waves" Pigeon River Trip, Saturday, July 16, 2022**

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

Location: Pigeon River, Hartford Rd, Hartford, TN

Once a year, all the female APEets come together to paddle together. All are welcome, even the guys who don't want to be left out; we don't discriminate, but it's our day and we want to get as many female paddlers out on the water as we can! We're making it a double trip on the Pigeon River again this year, staggering an Upper and Lower run!

The Upper Run (Class III-III+)

Trip Leader: Suzanne Wantland: [suzwant@gmail.com](mailto:suzwant@gmail.com), meet at 12:30 pm

The Lower Run (Class I-II)

Trip Leader: Debbie Briscoe [ldcakes@hotmail.com](mailto:ldcakes@hotmail.com), meet at 3:00 pm at NOC, 3485 Hartford Rd, Hartford

## **Laurel Run Trail, Saturday, July 23, 2022, 10:00 am - Noon**

Contact: [Josh Hayes](#)

Rating: *Easy/Moderate, 2 miles round trip to falls*

Location: [Laurel Run Park](#), 364 Laurel Run Park Rd, Church Hill TN 3764

Weather permitting! There is a creek crossing that can get rained out, so be willing to wade ankle deep, if the creek is low enough. Plan to meet at the parking area and we will hike to the two falls and back. The falls are about 12ft and 25ft high. Be sure to bring water. Dogs are allowed on leash.

## **Hiwassee River Weekend (Class I-II), August 5 – 7, 2022**

Contacts: [Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636; [Jo Anne](#)

Campground: <http://www.stateparks.com/hiwassee.html>

A weekend on the Hiwassee River! We're planing on driving down on Friday afternoon and camp at Gee Creek Campground. It is a very nice facility with full amenities. Reservations have already been made, but please contact Deb or Jo if you're coming!

Saturday: Meet at the put-in at 12:00 noon. We'll load up and convoy from the campground. We'll find a place to eat that evening after hot showers back at the campground. A campfire will be great afterwards and bring snacks.

Sunday: Either paddle another run or drive home, it's up to you.

## **A.T.: Laurel Fork Falls, Saturday, August 6, 2022, 9 am – 1:00 pm**

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

Rating: *Moderate, 5.5 miles, 624' elevation gain*

Location: [Laurel Fork Gorge Trailhead](#), 1023 US-321, Hampton, TN

Join me for a wonderful hike, partially on the AT, to the Laurel Fork Falls, which is an impressive 55' waterfall. We will meet at the Hampton trailhead parking area, which is on the right just after the small bridge on US 321S. The hike mostly parallels the creek. We will take a good break at the waterfall, and you can wade downstream of the falls if you're feeling adventurous. There is one relatively steep section, but not insurmountable since we can take it at whatever pace the group needs. Please bring plenty of water and snacks to enjoy at the falls. If you'd like any further details, please reach out!

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## **Walking to Surf Betsy**

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*By Bill Schooley*

You may have heard of this thing called Surf Betsy, which is a dream of a whitewater park in Elizabethton, TN. A whitewater park is built in and around a river, and has natural and man-made features in the river that are play-spots for watercraft such as kayaks, canoes, rafts, surfboards, tubes, and swimmers. Whitewater parks are designed by engineers to enhance fish habitat and river ecosystems in addition to providing recreation.

The dream of Surf Betsy has become a real project with broad popular support, embraced by the City Council and the business community, and bolstered by encouraging engineering and economic studies. Hopefully we will begin permitting and detailed designs soon.

Surf Betsy has many benefits and reasons for our enthusiasm, but one is particularly important to me: I hope that we can lower the barriers for people to "get in." Kayaking in whitewater rivers looks like fun. It is intriguing and many people would like to try it, but it is kind of scary. I say this from personal experience.

My first time paddling a kayak was in the year 1979. In those days, nobody knew anything about anything, because the internet and YouTube did not yet exist. However, some friends and I working at a boat-building shop thought we actually did know enough to build a kayak and paddle it in the Chesapeake Bay. I can assure you that no one has ever capsized a kayak as quickly and as often as I did in those days. After years of painful (but very enjoyable!) trials and errors, I became fairly proficient at ocean and surf kayaking, although with atrocious and sinful disregard for safety and common sense.



In 1994 I moved to Elizabethton. I definitely wanted to paddle my kayak in the rivers, but I was afraid – with good reason. Fortunately, I sought out and was introduced to the APEs, and was nurtured and mentored to the point where my ignorant fears morphed into wisdom, respect, and appreciation. It was not an easy transition, despite my overwhelming lust for paddling and the fact that I really was, to some degree, an experienced and skillful kayaker. And part of the difficulty lay in the fact that the whitewater itself seemed so remote and mysterious, and wild. All of which are good things, but...



Imagine how much easier it might be if I could have just walked downtown and seen all kinds of people old and young, playing and having fun on the river. Wouldn't it be great to just sit and watch, maybe talk to some people about their boats and gear, and where they had taken lessons, and all the other great places to kayak around here, and how much it costs, and someone had said, "Here, just get on my boogie board and paddle into the wave right over there...just like that kid is doing."

That is my dream of Surf Betsy.

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## Pint Glass Incentive (Second Chance)!

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*by Andy Steffan*

Who's interested in still earning a pint glass that missed their opportunity during our 75th anniversary? I know I just barely missed the mark on getting one, so I'm excited to announce a new opportunity to do so, at the request of some of our members. Starting July 1st, if you participate in 40 miles of club-led hikes (any trail, A.T. or not) or complete 40 hours of trail maintenance (not including travel time), you can receive a pint glass. No additional notification or logging than the usual systems! This will be a rolling incentive that can cross several years, so once you hit the milestone, we will reach out with a congratulations and thank you! Once you receive a pint glass through this incentive, you will not be eligible to earn another through this method. For those who already got one from the previous anniversary activity, well done, but you will not be eligible for another at this time, so we can recognize a larger number of members.



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## TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting Report

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*by Andy Steffan*

I was so glad to finally be able to host a Spring Dinner again! It was wonderful to get back together and celebrate many accomplishments and reveal some exciting club news! We had approximately 25 people in attendance for an all-you-can-eat Moe's dinner and cake/doughnuts for dessert. We were able to recognize individuals for their contributions in the past year and the massive amounts of trail maintenance that have been completed. Sarah Jones Decker (aka "Harvest") gave an engaging talk about the shelters on the A.T. with reference to her recent (relative due to Covid) book release. She provided a lot of pictures and details about the different types of construction, some of the history and correlations, and overall experience in creating the content. She also gave a lovely shout-out to our trail maintenance groups. I was a lucky recipient of her book as a door prize this year and I've really enjoyed it! I'd encourage you to go get one yourself if you are interested in the topic. I hope you will also consider joining us for our Fall Dinner later this year.

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## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

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Makenzie L Bolton

Oludare Martins

Kristie Bailey

Rheagan V Sizemore

Camryn Hurley

Matthew Braner

Brandon Gindt

Samir Martin

Nicholas M Walker

Michelle Rukeyser

David Scanlan

Joshua Testerman

Tommy Bernard

Matthew R Babler

Crystal L Williams

Thomas Walther

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## For the Record

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### Devil's Backbone Hike, June 18, 2022

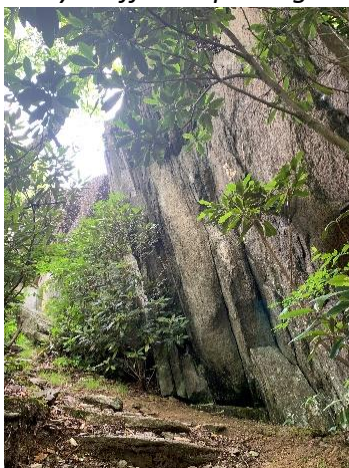
#### Sal Arena Reporting

Thankfully the rain Friday didn't leave the trail muddy and dropped the temperature below 90, if only slightly. Fortunately, the trails are mostly in the shade, which was a nice reprieve. The group made the trek up the first steep climb uphill and was rewarded with a beautiful overlook view and time to rehydrate. Next up was downhill and walking alongside the river towards Fall Creek, where our dog companion wanted to go for a swim. After we crossed the bridge to the start of Fall Creek, we decided to extend our hike and go around the loop. On this loop, we managed to spot a turkey that got very up close. Then started the path back to the trailhead which took us up another steep uphill to conquer, back to the overlook, and ending strong on the downhill. We had a great turnout including; Sal Arena, Andy Steffan, Jackie Steffan, Erin Ekart, David Miller, Michelle Obergfell, Elton Luong, Alex Lyttle and his little one, Chantel Roberts and her dog Zeik.



### A.T.: Spivey Gap to High Rocks Hike, June 25, 2022

#### Andy Steffan Reporting



Fortunately the elevation difference between Johnson City and Spivey Gap allowed for a cooler starting temperature. The hike began south-bound on the A.T.; and as-advertised, it was a fairly consistent incline, with a few steeper sections and plenty of switchbacks. The trail was in wonderful condition overall. There was a small hornet nest about 0.75 to 1 mile in on a small tree branch on the right side of the trail, but it was easily navigated without incident. The enormous rock outcropping was incredible to hike underneath (the picture doesn't do it justice) and was honestly a more unique feature than the view from the top. The view was a little obscured by trees at this time of year, so I will definitely be returning when the leaves are down, but pretty none-the-less. We had the entire rock outcropping to ourselves to enjoy the view, snacks, and breeze. The hike down went quickly, and good thing it did since we just beat out a small rain shower passing through. The hike actually ended up being about 3.75 miles instead of the advertised 4 miles. Attendees were: Andy Steffan, Jackie Steffan, Craig Burns, and Rebekah Burns.

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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). Following is a hike posted last month.



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## A.T. Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/1 and 4/12/2022

**Purpose:** Repair Fence and Accessible Trail area

**Location:** Section 4b, Accessible Trail from TN-91

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed installed four rails on the fence around the handicapped parking area on April 1. He completed the job of rebuilding the handicapped parking lot fence on April 12. He also installed more wire caging around five apple trees planted by Paul and Ted several years ago.

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**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/13/2022

**Purpose:** Clear and rehab trail

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

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed spread gravel on the east side of the first stile. He also cleared the trail bed from the third stile to Double Springs Shelter by removing rocks and roots. He split a 6' locust log that will be used as a bench beside the A.T.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/15/2022

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

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

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed spread gravel on the A.T. access ramp to the accessible trail and on the east side of the first stile on the farm. He also built steps of locust and stone on both sides of check steps constructed by the TEHCC crew the prior week.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/20/2022

**Purpose:** Obtain locust for rehab

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

**People:** Terry Estep, Ed Speer

**Summary:** Terry and Ed cut a locust and stored it for a box step at the 3rd stile.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/25 and 4/27/2022

**Purpose:** Build step and rehab trail

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

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed built a box step at the third stile on Osborne Farm. He then flagged about 15 locust trees near the A.T. within 3/4 mile of the third stile. He inspected the five check steps installed on April 7.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/5, 5/6, and 5/11/2022

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

**Location:** Section 4b, Osborne Farm and 1.75 north of TN-91

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** On May 5, Ed installed 2 climbing/crossing aids (combination chain and rope) on the third stile on Osborne Farm. On May 5, 6, and 11, he constructed a trailside bench about 1.75 miles north of TN-91.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/12 and 5/18/2022

**Purpose:** Inspect trail and clear trail

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

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed inspected the trail and removed limbs and logs from the trailside that should be mowed in June.

**Reporting:** Aaron Brown

**Date:** 5/14/2022

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns and inspect trail conditions

**Location:** Section 19a, Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap Shelter

**People:** Aaron Brown

**Summary:** I removed five blowdowns, all relatively minor and easily addressed with a hand saw. I also cut back encroaching vegetation using loppers. The section is in good shape, but will need another trim this fall most likely. The only issue with the treadway relates to the switchback just south of where the access shortcut ties in. This will need to be replaced soon.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/20/2022

**Purpose:** Clear trail and remove blowdown

**Location:** Section 4b, TN-91 to 2 miles north

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed removed rocks, stumps, and roots for about 1/3 mile north of Osborne Farm. He also removed an 8-inch maple blowdown that was 2 miles north of TN-91.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/21/2022

**Purpose:** Mow weeds and grass

**Location:** Sections 4b and 5, North and south of TN-91

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed used a scythe to mow around the USFS parking lot on Cross Mountain, along a 150-foot section of the A.T. south of TN-91, and around the apple trees planted on Osborne Farm.

**Reporting:** Jeffrey A. Hatling

**Date:** 5/23/2022

**Purpose:** Cut back vegetation along trail

**Location:** Section 14b, Yellow Mountain Gap/Overmountain Trail to Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Jeff Hatling

**Summary:** I cut back small beech tree branches and other vegetation with clippers. I also cleaned out a water diversion and picked up trash. The spring pipe needs to be replaced.

**Reporting:** Jake Mitchell

**Date:** 5/31/2022

**Purpose:** Weed and mow

**Location:** Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Little Hump

**People:** Jake Mitchell, Alex Johnston, Jasper Duncan, Alexander Johnston

**Summary:** We mowed the field by the barn, picked up trash, and dismantled fire rings. We also trimmed the weeds around the privy and field, up the blue-blaze to the A.T., and made it almost to the clearing on Little Hump. We are planning to come back in a couple weeks to get the rest from Bradley Gap back and mow the field again.

**Reporting:** Van Hovey

**Date:** 5/31/2022

**Purpose:** Check shelter

**Location:** Section 19b, Curley Maple Gap Shelter

**People:** Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey

**Summary:** We walked up to CMG Shelter via Martins Creek, replaced the graffiti board, painted over reachable graffiti on the shelter, and picked up trash. It was very disappointing to find another, brand spankin' new log book has been purloined from the shelter. Unfortunately, we did not bring a new one because the last report (as of 5/26/22) indicated there were two there. (Have bears learned to read and/or write?) The Sharpies are nowhere to be found. It was a nice day; we encountered section hikers and a few flip/floppers, perhaps 12 folks in all. Till next time...

**Reporting:** Johnson City Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** 6/1/2022

**Purpose:** Annual Trail Maintenance

**Location:** Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to 5 miles North to Unaka Mountain Rd "hairpin"

**People:** Rich Ritter, Pat Kenny, Allen Liggett, Lisa Milburn, Dave Polon, Sharon Begley, Maureen McCarty, Jolene Yetter, Jeannine Edwards, Lana Scott, JoAnn Manahan, Jeff Marek, Lannie Treece, Ruthie Edwards, Wayne Jones, Rick Culbertson, Joe Gervais, Joy Cook, Teri Agold, Jim Agold, Bill Strang, Jeanine Snyder, Bob Fuller, Sharon Posniak, John Kimball, Jack Lawson, Don Meyer

**Summary:** We had an excellent volunteer turnout from club members to complete our 5-mile section of the A.T. Two waterbars were completely rebuilt and the other 15 waterbars were cleaned and fortified. Blazes were repainted to stand out, and blowdowns were hand cut and cleared from the trail. Wonderful job by all and a BIG THANK YOU! Thank you Carl Fritz for the Silky saw loaner. We will continue to monitor the trail with another fall date TBA for any "extra" that needs to be done before winter.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 6/1/2022

**Purpose:** Repaint blazes

**Location:** Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap

**People:** John Tomko, Jim Foster

**Summary:** We repainted all the blazes and removed one large blowdown with the help of 3 strong hikers. There are 3 more blowdowns that will need a chainsaw; one is completely blocking the trail causing hikers to go off trail on a steep sidehill.

**Reporting:** Lotta Murray

**Date:** 6/1/2022

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

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

**People:** Lotta Murray, Ken Murray, Van Hovey

**Summary:** Our main purpose was to clear 4 blowdowns: a 36-inch, 20-inch, 8-inch and 6-inch. Two were a very large hemlock and pine that were close to No Business Knob Shelter and difficult to get around. We also checked the shelter, pulled out some trash, and got some measurements to repair the broken screen under the sleeping platform.



**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 6/2/2022

**Purpose:** Rehab and construct steps

**Location:** Section 2a, North of Abingdon Gap Shelter

**People:** Kevin Sedgwick, Joe Morris, David Cook, Jeff Hatling, Carl Fritz

**Summary:** The rehab in a section about 4 miles north of Abingdon Gap Shelter was completed today with the rehab of 432 feet, including the installation of one rock step, 2 water diversions, and 5 rolling grade dips. The total rehab north of Abingdon Gap Shelter in the five outings was 1409 feet.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 6/2/2022

**Purpose:** Rehab and construct steps

**Location:** Section 2b, Abingdon Gap Shelter

**People:** Van Hovey, Bob Peoples, Ed Speer

**Summary:** The crew "finished" the rehab of the water access trail behind Abingdon Gap Shelter, adding 6 locust steps and a water diversion over a 100-foot section.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/3/2022

**Purpose:** Mow weeds and grass

**Location:** Section 4b, TN-91 to 2.5 miles north

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed mowed with a scythe along the A.T. beyond 2.5 miles north.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 6/4/2022

**Purpose:** Hiking with Tools!

**Location:** Section 11b, Canute Place to Bitter End, Hard Core Cascades

**People:** Tim Stewart, Steve Perri, Michaela Hofbauer, Jim McGuire, Carl Fritz, Dan Firth, Ashley Hall, Josh Hall, Olivia Hall, Ian Hall, Bud Schulte, Alice Ashburn, Rebecka Powell

**Summary:** It was a long day and an even longer day for some. With a large group signed up, Carl suggested that we split into two groups. One group would go in from Bitter End while the other group would go in from the Moreland Gap Shelter access point. Good plan; so I took the group from Bitter End and Carl took the other group. My group hiked to Hard Core Cascades. We lopped rhodos and removed about 6 minor blowdowns along the way. Blazes were also refreshed. Carl's group navigated FS293. At the shelter they painted the graffiti board. Hiking south they removed encroaching vegetation and 13 blowdowns of various diameters. They also investigated two wet areas that could use foot bridges. Locust logs were identified nearby. Carl had to return to his truck, but several others continued hiking to Bitter End where they all met. Finally the weather cooperated this year and certainly enhanced this outing. Several newcomers participated and seven patches were passed out. Great day of Trail Maintenance!



**Reporting:** Ken Murray

**Date:** 6/5/2022

**Purpose:** Clear blowdown

**Location:** Section 20b, Spivey Gap

**People:** Ken Murray, Lotta Murray

**Summary:** Hikers had reported a serious blowdown just above the second bridge. We removed the blowdown.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 6/5/2022

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

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

**People:** Wong Li, Joe Morris

**Summary:** Hiking south from Hughes Gap, we removed two blowdowns. The more complex tangle was 0.6 mile north of Little Rock Knob. The section is beginning to show the effects of a greater number of hikers and there are opportunities for future rehab.

**Reporting:** Kevin Sedgwick

**Date:** 6/6/2022

**Purpose:** Whack weeds

**Location:** Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US-19E, southern end

**People:** Kevin Sedgwick

**Summary:** I started the summer 2022 weed-whacker season. Bam!! Part 1. I changed it up and started at southern end and worked north. I was surprised at the amount of growth along the side hill sections. With my trusty weed trimmer, I climbed higher and higher. I repainted blazes in the hollow. About two dozen hikers passed me. I got a lot done, but there is plenty left.

On another note, when I returned to my truck, I was met by thru-iker Austin with a fawn in his arms. He said it would not stay put and followed him for a few miles. It looked under weight. I had him put it in my truck. After several phone calls and help from Gloria, I dropped it off at a local college that has wildlife care unit. Happy ending.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 6/8 and 6/9/2022

**Purpose:** Mow weeds and grass, plus inspect bog bridges

**Location:** Sections 4b and 5, North of TN-91 and one mile south of TN-91

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed mowed along the A.T. north of TN-91. He also mowed along the A.T. south of TN-91 and inspected bog bridges.

**Reporting:** Yong Li

**Date:** 6/8/2022

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap

**People:** Yong Li

**Summary:** Yong removed two blowdowns as reported by Jim Foster the week prior. This section is now clear.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 6/9/2022

**Purpose:** Rehab and remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 12b, Mountaineer Falls to Sugar Hollow Creek

**People:** Kevin Sedgwick, Jeff Hatling, Rebecka Powell, Lacy Spanier, Dan Firth, Renee Messina, Greg Kramer, Carl Fritz, Tony Messina, Dick Martindale, Joe Morris, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** The Thursday crew split into two groups. The first group went in at Sugar Hollow Creek and rehabbed 54 feet, added 5 water diversions and one large rock step/water diversion. Two blowdowns were also removed. Group two re-purposed a locust bridge near Mountaineer Falls by adding a 15-foot crib to facilitate a relocation. This group removed 6 blowdowns. The entire section was scouted and is now clear of all obstructions.



**Reporting:** Dick Martindale

**Date:** 6/10/2022

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

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

**People:** Ken Murray, Dick Martindale

**Summary:** Total of five blowdowns were removed. We hiked 8.2 miles; though the blowdowns were between the intersection with the Coon Den Falls trail to Canute Place. We also cut encroaching vegetation.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 6/11/2022

**Purpose:** Cut Weeds

**Location:** Section 3a, McQueen's Gap to Spring 2.3 miles north of Low Gap

**People:** Steve Perri

**Summary:** I cut weeds and briars and cleaned waterbars from McQueens Gap to the spring. The emergency shelter checked out and was ok. Water at the spring was present, but not flowing much. There were a lot of hikers passing through and a group hiking 50 miles in 24 hrs to raise money for Ukraine refugees. So McQueens Gap was a happening place that afternoon.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 6/11/2022

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 2b, Abingdon Gap Shelter to McQueen's Gap

**People:** Steve Perri

**Summary:** I had some extra time after cutting weeds on my section from McQueens Gap south, so I decided to cut the weeds from McQueens Gap to Abingdon Gap Shelter for Steve Wilson. As usual, this section had some thick weeds just south of the shelter. I spent an hour each way cutting the weeds. The shelter checked out ok and the graffiti board still had some useable space. Two people were already stopped there for the night at 3:00. My scythe cutting blade was working its way loose. When I got back to my vehicle, I moved the anchor point for the blade in the bracket and tightened the nut, hoping it will fix the problem.

**Reporting:** Dick Martindale

**Date:** 6/12/2022

**Purpose:** Clear trail with hand tools

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

**People:** Dick Martindale

**Summary:** I used loppers and a hand saw to remove smaller blowdowns and encroaching vegetation. I also placed debris to block two shortcuts and repaired one area of cribbing.

**Reporting:** Tony Messina

**Date:** 6/14/2022

**Purpose:** Section Maintenance

**Location:** Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mountain Road

**People:** Tony and Renee Messina

**Summary:** Renee and I made an early summer pass through our section on Tuesday. We cleared one 12-inch, knee-high, blowdown near Walnut Mtn Road, that being the only significant one encountered on the day. We lopped quite a bit of rhodo and cut weeds along the the grassy/weedy areas near the center of the section. Overall, the vegetation was not yet as bad as we expected given what we have seen at lower elevations. We saw only a couple of thru-hikers, as well as about ten local backpackers.

**Reporting:** Scotty Bowman

**Date:** 6/15/2022

**Purpose:** Check shelter and hike the SAWS crew in

**Location:** Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd, Vandeventer Shelter

**People:** Scotty Bowman

**Summary:** I hiked with the SAWS crew to get them set up for their 8-day hitch. The crew will be working on some tread repair, some brushing, and blowdown removal. I am planning to meet with them Tuesday to help with the larger blowdown north of Vandeventer. On the way out, I refreshed the graffiti board and spot-painted the walls where folks left their marks. I cut out two blowdowns, 8-inch and under. Both springs on this section are flowing pretty well. I encountered a total of 10 NOBOs. I also saw a mama bear with two tiny cubs at the top of the switchbacks around dusk.

**Reporting:** Erin Martin

**Date:** 6/15 – 6/22/2022

**Purpose:** Lead a USNA SAWS crew for 8 days; rehab tread, brush, remove trees

**Location:** Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd, concentrating 2.5 miles south of shelter

**People:** Erin Martin, Jackson Aleman, Casimir Pozecki, Patrick Huntsinger, Dean Neeley, Sean MacLaney

**Summary:** This crew from the US Navy Academy rehabilitated the tread, redefining the backslope, hinge, tread, and the outslope; sometimes doing a short reroute, other times widening the tread and removing rocks and roots. We also cleaned water diversions, cut back encroaching vegetation, and removed blowdowns.



**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 6/16/2022

**Purpose:** General Maintenance

**Location:** Section 14c, Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge

**People:** Richard Carter, Greg Kramer, Bob Peoples, Van Hovey, Jeff Hatling, Joe Morris

**Summary:** This crew rehabbed a shortcut corner leading down to Engine Gap. We installed 3 new rock steps and repositioned a 4th step leading up to Jane Bald. Three non-functional locust steps were removed. New drains were cut into two low-lying areas. We continued to cut back encroaching vegetation heading up toward Jane Bald and blocked social trails with the cuttings.



**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 6/16/2022

**Purpose:** General Maintenance

**Location:** Section 15b, Cloudland to Ash Gap

**People:** Dan Firth, Dick Martindale, Carl Fritz, Tony Messina, Renee Messina, Rebecka Powell (Group photo by Andy Niekamp)

**Summary:** This crew went from Cloudland south towards Ash Gap. Tasks and accomplishments for the day included: installing 12 rock steps and a 12-foot long by 2-foot deep rock crib, repurposing 4 locust steps, cutting previously installed rebar for safety, and removing a blowdown.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 6/17/2022

**Purpose:** USFS video shoot and scout trail

**Location:** Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter and Bradley Gap

**People:** Carl Fritz, Joe Morris

**Summary:** The day started with a video shoot at the "Barn" that summarized history, condition, status, and proposal for disposition of the closed Overmountain Shelter. Representatives of the USFS and ATC, and Carl Fritz of TEHCC were recorded describing key points of the shelter's condition and plans for its decommission and removal. Carl and I then hiked from the Barn to the tent site at 388.3; then bushwhacked up and over Little Hump to Bradley Gap seeking the location of the A.T. from the mid-1950s. We also assessed the rehab necessary on our future visit to install the Bradley Gap bog bridges. The Gray's Lily and views of Big Hump and surrounding peaks was spectacular today.



**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 6/19/2022

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 3b, Spring to US-421 Shady Valley

**People:** Steve Perri

**Summary:** I cut weeds on the southern end of Section 3 on a really cool day! A lot of briars are growing in, seemingly more than I remembered. I also cleared out new waterbars and cowetas that look to be doing a pretty good job. There were a lot of hikers out this weekend. The section is now done with weeding.

**Reporting:** Michael Watts

**Date:** 6/20/2022

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

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

**People:** Mike Watts

**Summary:** I cut summer weeds along the section as well as along the trails to the spring and Wilder Mine Hollow campsite.

**Reporting:** Scotty Bowman

**Date:** 6/21/2022

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Sections 6 and 7, ½ mile north and ½ mile south of Vandeventer Shelter

**People:** Scotty Bowman

**Summary:** I hiked in to help the SAWS crew with a blowdown that was located 0.4 miles north of Vandeventer. It was an oak about 30" in diameter that was hung up in a tree. We were able to clear it with lots of wedges on the first cut. We also cut out another oak about 25" in diameter that was on the ground just north of the first tree. I brought a weed whip and brushed back the vegetation

for 1/2 mile north of Vandeventer and 1/2 mile south. On my way out, I inspected the tread work that the crew had completed and they did an exceptional job.



**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 6/23/2022

**Purpose:** General Maintenance

**Location:** Section 14c, Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge

**People:** Dick Martindale, Greg Kramer, Elzear Lemieux, Joe Morris, Kevin Sedgwick, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Van Hovey, Michael Watson

**Summary:** Crew tasks for the day included: removing geotextile, adding 10 flag or step stones north of Grassy Ridge intersection, installing 5 major water diversions at Engine Gap, and whacking weeds and trimming woody growth to the Grassy Ridge intersection.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 6/23/2022

**Purpose:** General Maintenance

**Location:** Section 15a, Cloudland to Ash Gap

**People:** Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Rebecka Powell, Bettye Boone, Saylor Fox

**Summary:** Crew tasks for the day included: installing one rock step, repositioning and staking 10 locust steps, and rehabbing the turnpike at the cabin site with additional fill.

**Reporting:** Lori Mirrer

**Date:** 6/23/2022

**Purpose:** Check assigned section; repaint blue blazes to water source at Ash Gap

**Location:** Section 15a, Cloudland to Bear Mountain

**People:** Lori Mirrer

**Summary:** This section of the A.T. is in great shape. Credit is likely due to the folks who were here on June 16 installing steps (see photo), etc. THANK YOU! As for me, I did more checking than doing, because there wasn't much to do. I trimmed what little greenery was beginning to lean into the trail and witnessed a fire ring devoid of trash/paper/plastic/foil. In fact, I didn't see any trash around! I did paint/repaint the blue blazes leading to and from the water source, adding several given that the path frequently seems confusing. The white blazes, painted by Mountain Squid and me last year, still look good. The water was flowing timidly. Someone with a pump filter would have more success than the squeezers. While I came armed with loppers, saw, and digging tool, I didn't bring the sling blade. I wish I had for the top of Beartown Mtn north to the start of Ash Gap. Perhaps that can be tackled when Hughes Gap gets a trimming. I saw two day-hikers and a lively quartet of section hikers: Fall Risk, PayDay, Puddin' and Smokin' Britches. This year, they're doing Spivey Gap to Damascus. I was sooo tempted to join them for a day or two.



**Reporting:** Kevin Sedgwick

**Date:** 6/24/2022

**Purpose:** Cut grass/weeds

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

**People:** Kevin Sedgwick

**Summary:** The summer weed whacker tour continues. I'm surprised by the number of hikers. Most were section hikers with a few thru-hikers.

**Reporting:** Richard Carter

**Date:** 6/24/2022

**Purpose:** Repaint graffiti board

**Location:** Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Richard Carter

**Summary:** The main plan for the day was to clean and repaint the graffiti board at the shelter. I was able to get a pretty good new surface on the board, but it is seriously deteriorated and will need replacing after re-graffiti-ed. I checked the spring. I also spent some time cutting encroaching vegetation north of the shelter.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 6/25/2022

**Purpose:** Trim trail and cut back annual growth

**Location:** Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap

**People:** Joel Zabel, Joy Zabel, Kit Parks, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Joel trimmed the whole section with a string trimmer. Joy, Kit and I lopped and trimmed back encroaching vegetation.

**Reporting:** Elzear Lemieux

**Date:** 6/25/2022

**Purpose:** A.T. Maintenance

**Location:** Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US-321

**People:** Elzear Lemieux, Emily Lemieux

**Summary:** We cut back vegetation, identified blowdowns to be removed, picked up trash, and removed 2 small blowdowns with a hand saw. We also installed a sign near the parking area.

**Reporting:** Jacob Mitchell

**Date:** 6/26/2022

**Purpose:** Weed and mow

**Location:** Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter and Blue-Blaze

**People:** Jake Mitchell

**Summary:** I mowed the field, which was actually much shorter than I expected. I had planned to walk to Bradley Gap and work my way back; but rain clouds were threatening, so I focused on the blue-blaze trail and around the intersection. The blue-blaze "wall of thorns" is getting higher. The USFS really needs to knock all that down before it becomes too tall.