



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

August 2022

tehcc.org

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

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Along the A.T., photo by Joe Morris

Letter from the Chair

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

I had the opportunity to take one of our new kayaks out for a paddle on the river just north of Boone Lake from Winged Deer Park, which was a great time! We even had a heron fly right overtop and land nearby, seeming to be unbothered by our presence. We gave it some space and watched for awhile before paddling on. Since the club has recently gotten boats, I believe I saw a recent Virginia regulation update. Beginning in July of this year, anyone that uses a state constructed boat launch on a river will have to buy a user license from the state, regardless of the size of watercraft (including boats, kayaks, canoes, etc.). These licenses can be bought online for \$4 for a single day license. Year-long licenses are also available. Virginia hunting and fishing licenses also function as user licenses. I just don't want anyone to get in any unexpected trouble! This only applies to Virginia, not Tennessee.

Also, I want to continue to encourage everyone to join our club-led hikes and maintenance events, with the incentive that you can earn a pint glass. You can reference previous newsletters for more details.

Event Schedule – Next Two Months (cont'd onto next page)

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
Aug 5 - 7	Hiwassee River Weekend (Class I-II)	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
Aug 6	A.T.: Laurel Fork Falls, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Andy Steffan	919-928-4738
Aug 13	Hiking with Tools!	Tim Stewart	
Aug 13	APEs Swift Water Scenarios, Basic Edition	Steve Adams	423-650-1293
Aug 18	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1:00	Andy Steffan	423-229-6492

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Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
Aug 20	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9 am – 2 pm	Tony Messina	423-677-6650
Sep 10	Hiking with Tools!	Tim Stewart	
Sep 15	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1:00	Andy Steffan	423-229-6492
Sep 17	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9 am – 2 pm	Tony Messina	423-677-6650

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.

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.

Paddle to the Grill, Thursday Evenings through August, 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) and TEHCC (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, 3 pm, until September 10

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 to Lower Watauga launch: 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

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!

APes Swift Water Scenarios, Basic Edition, August 13, 2022, Noon – 9:00 pm

Contact: [Steve Adams](#), 423-650-1293

Location: *French Broad, Section 9, Barnard, NC*

Prerequisite: Some prior Swift Water Training is preferred

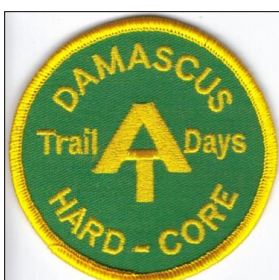
So you've had some rescue training, now what? Come join the A.P.E.s for an all-day river trip packed with practical scenarios and learn how to use your skills in the real world. As we make our way down the river, we will test you with scenarios and build up the skills in your "tool box."

For more information and to register for this course, go to: www.riverapes.org/swift-water-rescue.html

4000th Patch Issued to First-Time "Hiker-Trail Volunteer"

Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Tim Stewart reporting

Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club have had very active outreach programs to win the hearts and minds of hikers and college students towards future trail and recreation work. Many maintainers, like Bob Peoples and Bill Stowell, were early significant recruiters. In 1998, thru-hiker Marty Allen, "The Artist," designed a "Hiker-Trail Volunteer" patch depicting a crossed crosscut saw and mattock superimposed over Laurel Fork Falls. It was lettered by thru-hiker Sara Allen, "Rosey." We started issuing these patches in 1999 to any first-time, non-Club member who made a significant contribution (usually one work day) to A.T. maintenance. In this, the 23rd year, we issued our 4000th patch on June 5th when seven new volunteers from the community came to support a Saturday outing to cut rhododendron. It was National Trails Day!



Another major outreach program we ran for 15 years through 2015 recruited hikers for two days maintenance as part of Damascus Trail Days. This program was initiated in 2001 and became known as Hard Core. All first-time participants earned a Damascus Hard Core patch rather than the Hiker-Trail Volunteer patch. Many participants had worked with Hard Core in previous years, so they received a rocker patch. In the fifteen years of this program, we recruited about 738 first-time maintainers in this program.

In these two programs we have recruited almost 4740 first-time maintainers in 23 years. These first-timers on their first day contributed over 35,400 hours. Fifty-nine percent of these first timers were college students, 36% were hikers, and 9% were others (boy scouts, venture scouts, high schoolers, or

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local volunteers). College students have been primarily from four universities, Appalachian State, Wright State, East Tennessee State, and University of North Carolina-Charlotte. For many of the college students, this was their first exposure to the Appalachian Trail. Likewise, most hikers and college students experienced trail maintenance for the first time.

As we started major trail relocations, opportunities for recruiting increased. We ramped up from about 90 first-time volunteers each year to almost 400 by 2006. As those large projects were completed over the next decade, the number declined to about 80 per year, which we hopefully can maintain with routine maintenance and rehab.

We plan to continue to share trail maintenance with hikers and students. The patches are very meaningful to many. The hikers usually sew their patches on their pack that evening. The patches symbolize their giving back to the trail!

FunFest Moonlight Hike, July 21, 2022

Andy Steffan reporting

A total of 12 TEHCC volunteers attended the event! On the hike to our various stations, we were treated to a heron hanging out near the floating bridge. There were approximately 200 hikers that attended the event! It was great to see many families make the outing. As seen in the picture, there was a pretty sunset with a lot of purples and pinks that created a beautiful reflection off the water. The rangers were also able to get the wolves to howl at the end of our hike, which was neat to hear at night. The trail did get a little slick in spots due to recent weather, but nothing unmanageable. Ranger Megan Krager and the Bays Mountain Park staff/emergency response crew had a fantastic setup so everything appeared to run smoothly and safely. The total hike length was approximately 2.5 miles. Volunteers were: Andy Steffan, Jackie Steffan, Jonathan Shumaker, Josh Hayes, Rheagan Sizemore, Kevin Wang, Lucy Wang, Craig Burns, Rebekah Burns, Keith Bennett, Debbie Bennett, and Gerald Scott.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Vinita Shinde

Savana Corbin

Noah D Wallen

For the Record



A.T.: Uncle Johnny's Hostel to View Over Nolichucky, July 8, 2022

Kyle Haas reporting

The initial goal was to be able to make it to Woody's Ridge, which is a very difficult hike located in the Black Mountains. However, my flight into Asheville was delayed, and this hike seemed like a reasonable one on the way back to Kingsport, just off of I-26. Attendees were Jonathan Shumaker and Kyle Haas.

If you go: This is a fairly steep incline up the mountain from this starting point. However, the views are awesome, overlooking the Nolichucky River.

A.T.: Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot Hike, July 16, 2022

Andy Steffan reporting

The hike began with wonderful temperatures and the whole parking lot to ourselves. Unfortunately, since we were the first ones on the trail, it meant we had a lot of spiderwebs to plow through, but I took one for the team. We saw plenty of mushrooms and wildflowers on the way up, more than I expected for this time of year. The trail was overall in great condition, with only one spot where a small tree was across the trail, which I notified our maintainers of afterwards. Once we reached the start of the bald, the grass and blackberries encroached a little on the trail, brushing our legs as we passed. While taking in



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the wonderful views from the bald, we passed a few people who took the easy route to the views by driving to the top. There was a little haze in the distance, but it created some great color on the surrounding mountains. The hike back was quick since it was all downhill. We also spotted a few ripe blackberries and blueberries on the way down, the first I've seen this year while hiking! The total distance was approximately 4.6 miles. Attendees were Andy Steffan, Jackie Steffan, and Brandon Gindt.

Laurel Run Waterfall Hike, July 23, 2022

Josh Hayes reporting



Due to a plant incident, we only had 3 people that were able to attend the hike. The hike itself was easy-to-light/moderate with a very wide trail that was clearly marked. There were a few downed trees and we hauled out almost half a bag of trash from the trail. Due to rain a few days before, the trail was muddy in spots, but we were able to go single file and cross at some dry spots. However, this did lead to the falls being very active! The hike itself was cooled with a heavy canopy of tree cover and the running creek beside the trail; so the 2-ish mile hike felt like a walk in the park (pun intended). I would recommend this hike to bigger groups due to the wide trail and to anyone who enjoys water features. Attendees were Josh Hayes, Ayla Hayes, and an intern.

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: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/15/2022

Purpose: Mow and clear trail

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

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed removed small trees from the section previously mowed. He mowed saw briars growing near the trailbed. And he mowed short sections between the Osborne Farm and Double Springs Shelter.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/19/2022

Purpose: Check entire section

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

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed Inspected this section of the A.T. and found no blowdowns.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/22/2022

Purpose: Mow trail

Location: Sections 4a and 4b, North and south of Double Springs Shelter

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed mowed sections north and south of Double Springs Shelter. He removed small trees from previously mowed sections. He also mowed saw briars growing along the trail.

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Reporting: Bettye Boone

Date: 6/23/2022

Purpose: General Maintenance

Location: Sections 15a and 15b, Cloudland South and Cloudland to Carvers (6th switchback from Carvers)

People: Bettye Boone, Saylor Fox

Summary: We worked with crew (Carl Fritz, Jason, Rebecca, Saylor, Bettye) from Cloudland south to finish repair of steps begun the previous week. We also cut back foliage, brushed in shortcuts along the trail to prevent widening of the trail, and replaced/screwed step supports (wooden stakes). North of Cloudland we repaired a few steps, cut back foliage, checked on the shelter and water source (Bettye) and removed blowdowns at about the 6th switchback from Carvers (Sawyer: Carl). As reported previously, the graffiti board needs to be replaced.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 6/28/2022

Purpose: Scout section for work day

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Greg Kramer

Summary: I walked to the water source south of Iron Mountain shelter and cleared the trail. The water flow was poor. I cleaned the white board; it needs to be painted next time. All of the trash at the shelter had been packed out; I did some minor trash removal. The waterbars need cleaning and weeds need cutting. These will be done on the 30th. Uncle Nicks monument looks good.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 6/28/2022

Purpose: Whack weeds

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

People: Kevin Sedgwick

Summary: Part 3 of the story, weed whacking: There is a lot more poison ivy this year. Tecnu and Ivarest poison ivy scrub and itch cream are going to be on the list. I cut out a tangle of logs. There were a few section hikers today.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/29/2022

Purpose: Inspect trail and clear trail bed

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

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed inspected the entire section. The lower spring at the shelter has little flow. He constructed a short section of rock crib and added more stone to a previous crib. He removed a hemlock tree top. He used a sledge hammer to break a large flat stone that had been removed from the trail bed previously. He used a potato digger to remove several dozen rocks from the trail bed. And he used a sledge to break sharp/problem rocks that could not be removed with the potato digger.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/30/2022

Purpose: Install signs

Location: Sections 4a and 4b, Near TN 91, across Osborne Farm, and near US 421

People: Ed Speer, Terry Estep

Summary: Terry painted sign boards and with Ed, installed the four "Please Close Gate" on the hiker gates. Ed also installed the A.T. distance signs at TN 91 north and at US 421 north.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 6/30/2022

Purpose: A variety of tasks

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Greg Kramer, Kevin Sedgewick, Carl Fritz, Elzear Lemieux, Dan Firth, Joe Morris, Dick Martindale, Bob Peoples, Tony Messina, Van Hovey, Michael Watson, Jeff Willhelm, Renee Messina

Summary: Five different groups left Cross Mtn Rd and TN 91 to various tasks. Six new waterbars were created. The trail was sectioned up for three crews of string trimmers. Eight people cleaned and created waterbars; this group also cut back vegetation. The trail was successfully cleared of weeds, for now. Joe Morris looked at the trail south of the shelter, which has become a deep trench from fast flowing water. Plans were made to come back next week to start repairs of this section.

Reporting: Joel Zabel

Date: 7/2/2022

Purpose: Summer weed trimming



Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS230 switchback

People: Yong Li, Jim Foster, Denny Samuel, Todd Markwalter, Kit Parks, Marianne Huff, Joy Zabel, Joel Zabel

Summary: We weed whacked the entire section, removed one 12" blowdown and several smaller ones with the Katanaboy, and cut back rodos and bushes with Dewalt hedgetrimmers and loppers.

Reporting: Elzear Lemieux

Date: 7/3/2022

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US 321

People: Elzear Lemieux, Emily Lemieux

Summary: We cleared four blowdowns.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/7/2022

Purpose: Inspect trail, improve spring and trail

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

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed inspected the trail and shelter. He cleaned the trail and cut saw briars. He cut and installed a short locust side log. Thanks to Ted Weaver of Weaver's Self-Service for donating PVC pipe and fittings. Ed installed these in the spring to better secure the poor functioning system there.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 7/7/2022

Purpose: Clear weeds and grass

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

People: Kevin Sedgwick

Summary: I finished weed whacking the section, and was glad I brought loppers. I had to cut back limbs from a number of trees. I also reset the post at the turn. I saw few hikers today.

Reporting: Jake Mitchell

Date: 7/11/2022

Purpose: Same ole, same ole. Weeding

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Bradley Gap

People: Jake Mitchell

Summary: What started out to be a travel day for work, turned out to be a trail maintenance day. My flights got delayed about 12 hours and the forecast for this coming weekend looked bleak when I was going to do some trail maintenance; so I took the opportunity to be on the mountain for a few hours.

The gravel road up Roaring Fork Valley has been significantly improved; I guess by the county. The one really bad spot with lots of large rocks is almost a non-issue now; just a minor slowdown. I arrived at the gate early. Spent about 15 minutes knocking down the high weeds and a few limbs that were encroaching the road. Upon finishing, I looked up and there was a large blowdown about 100 yards ahead. Thankfully I remembered to bring my saw today. I knocked that out in about 15 minutes getting some weightlifting in for the day. While dealing with the blowdown, I met some hikers that were happy to get a lift up to the barn, so I obliged. By 8:30, I was loaded down with fuel and water and headed up the hill.

I cut weeds with the big boy Stihl brushcutter, complete with harness. I started at the Litte Hump clearing. Everything to this point was in decent enough shape to wait until I had more reinforcements. I was able to weed continuously almost all the way to Bradley Gap. I had to stop a couple hundred yards short due to a disagreement with the Stihl. Bradley Gap was strangely dry. Very surprising given how much rain we've gotten. The future bog bridge area was easily walkable with no mud. Upon returning to my orange foe, it gave into my will and started again. I was able to weed the other side back to the top of Little Hump until I ran out of fuel... four tanks. Grass at the barn was pretty short. I'll come back in a couple weeks to mow and bring reinforcements to finally knock all the weeds back really good until we hit them again before winter.

I'd like to move forward with putting up fiberglass sign posts in the open areas to replace the rotting fenceposts. We'd probably need about 20-25 for this section; probably 30+ if we want to do that on Big Hump also.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 7/12/2022

Purpose: TEHCC A.T. Committee meeting

Location: Eastman Recreation Center

People: Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Tim Stewart, Bob People, Dan Firth, Vic Hasler, Steve Perri

Summary: Overall, our designated 134 miles of the Appalachian Trail remain in good condition with prompt removal of reported blowdowns and steady improvement of the tread. Upcoming trail maintenance projects were discussed to ensure the plans were appropriately developed, including Wright State University student trip, bog bridge for Bradley Gap, Saturday crew, etc. For 2023 there are other bog bridges/turnpikes to replace, which could involve local locust or building from treated lumber; thus candidates

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for a license plate grant. The Roan Mountain visitor use management initiative was discussed. Desired 2022 goals are refreshing the campsite inventory and investigating where the A.T. should lay. Cherry Gap Shelter replacement proceeds with an agency visit this fall and NEPA review in 2023. The next committee meeting is tentatively set for October 10th.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 7/12/2022

Purpose: Survey multiflora rose for future eradication

Location: Section 4a, US 421 to Double Springs Shelter, Middle of section

People: Dan Firth

Summary: Jones Bog located on the Shady Valley side of the trail is a biologically diverse and important area. Previously, a homestead was located just below the trail creating a disturbed area allowing multiflora rose to become well established and abundant in the area. I surveyed multiflora rose with Michael Kochinski (intern with ATC) from the trail down through the bog, so that a management plan may be submitted to the Forest Service with the goal of eradicating the multiflora rose.

Reporting: Tom Sahlin

Date: 7/12/2022

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 16a, Greasy Creek to Clyde Smith Shelter

People: Tom Sahlin

Summary: A hiker had reported a fallen tree about a mile south of Clyde Smith Shelter. The report was off by about a mile, but it was closer for me since I came up by way of Greasy Creek Friendly Hostel. The downfall was a live wild cherry tree, apparently blown down. Hikers were able to struggle through the branches of the top of the tree. The main trunk was only about 4 inches and another branch was about 3 inches pinned to the ground, so it had to be cut from the ground up. Branches were first pruned off and then trunk was cut. The cut was somewhat difficult from binding from the fresh wood grabbing the blade, but it took only an hour to cut and clean all slash off the trail. Then I proceeded to Clyde Smith Shelter to inspect the trail for more downfalls and snip branches hanging over the trail at eye level. I met 5 hikers that were spending the night at the shelter. I removed some trash, as well as took trash from the hikers and returned to Greasy Creek Friendly just before dark. The trail from Greasy Creek Friendly Hostel is pretty rough and could use some help because of washing out and no water diversions to speak of. All the hikers at the shelter were friendly and I enjoyed chatting with them. One other thing to note is there is a bald faced hornets nest about 1/2 mile from the shelter that is about 7 inches in diameter and about 3 feet from the trail. I was hiking with a couple that I met just as I was finishing up clearing the tree. He stopped to take a pic which I advised against, but he did anyway. He took the shot from about 4 feet away. One hornet crawled out and watched and I was glad it stayed there. I wonder why the nest is so close to the ground where it would be a danger to hikers.



Reporting: Dick Martindale

Date: 7/14/2022

Purpose: Remove wasp nest; remove blowdown

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

People: Van Hovey, Dick Martindale

Summary: I sprayed and removed a wasp nest about 1/3 mile north of No Business Knob Shelter. It was hanging over the middle of the trail, 7-feet above the ground. I also removed a blowdown over a small creek crossing about one mile south of the shelter.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 7/14/2022

Purpose: Rehabilitate just South of Iron Mountain Shelter

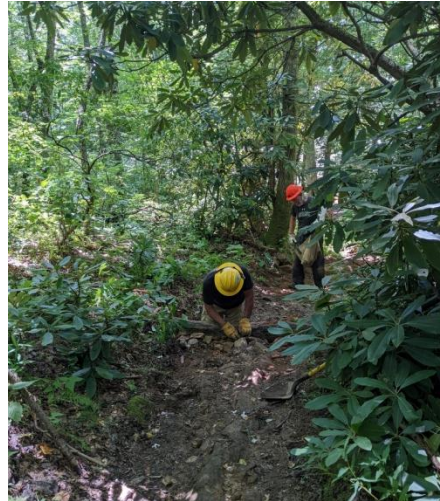
Location: Section 6, One-fourth mile south of Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Greg Kramer, Carl Fritz, Jeff Hatling, Jerry Kyle, Bill Murdoch, Dan Firth, Joe Morris, Tony Messina, Elzear Lemieux, Tim Stewart

Summary: We built 27 feet of treadway in two sections; one was where the stream crosses the trail heading to the water source and the other was part of a water diversion going north up the steep part of the hillside. Eleven water diversions were installed, from the stream to within 100 feet of Iron Mountain shelter. Two check dam steps were also installed in the steep portion of the hill

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between water diversions. I want to thank everyone who showed up, this was a challenging project for today. We were blessed with perfect weather up in the mountains.



Reporting: Jake Mitchell

Date: 7/15/2022

Purpose: Weed and mow

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to top of Little Hump

People: Jake Mitchell, Alex Johnston, Alexander Johnston, Ender Johnston

Summary: Yay though I hike through the valley of the shadow of weeds, I will trim no more. We took advantage of a gorgeous day to get up on the mountain and complete the major trimming of the summer from Overmountain Shelter, up the blue blaze, and trail north to Bradley Gap. We started by mowing the camping field by the barn. Then, three string trimmers and a miniature pack mule trimmed all the way to the top of Little Hump completing a severe cut back of the vegetation that should last until September, assuming the weather isn't too wet. The trail is now clear all the way to Bradley Gap. Surprisingly, the water source at Overmountain is dry. The creek is running below the gravel road gate though.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 7/15/2022

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 12c, Sugar Hollow Creek to Campbell Hollow Road, Elk River

People: Joe Morris

Summary: First stop of the day: I cut weeds on Elk River. I saw three hikers on the A.T. and many visitors at Elk River Falls.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 7/15/2022

Purpose: Mow

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

People: Joe Morris

Summary: Second stop of the day: I mowed the weeds from Iron Mtn Gap to the Apple Orchard.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 7/16/2022

Purpose: Check section

Location: Section 11b, Canute Place to Bitter End, FS293

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: I went in via the other side road off of Forest Service Road 293. There is a gate, but it was open. This road was easy to follow and could probably be driven on. It was about 1.34 miles to the A.T. with the last 0.25 mile or so bushwacking. It took about an 1 hr 15 min. Once on the A.T., it was about 1.5 miles to Moreland Gap Shelter. I took a short break and then picked up some trash around the shelter. I returned via the other access point that I had previously investigated off of FS293. I followed the ribbons out and removed them as I went. I hiked back to my car via the road. This access point might work to get to the shelter and possibly for bridge construction in the future. It came out on the north side of the wet areas, so I did not investigate that possibility. It is probably too far from the Canute Place.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 7/21/2022

Purpose: Field trip to Carvers Gap; Visitor Use Management (VUM) discussion

Location: Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap Round Bald, Jane Bald and Cloudland

People: Tim Stewart, Carl Fritz

Summary: Carl and I went on a field trip with ATC (Drew Ball, Matt Drury and Sarah Adams) and visiting NPS APPA representative, Allesandra Hayes. Current trail conditions and other issues, including VUM ideas, were discussed. It rained in the morning, but once at Carvers, it had stopped. It was windy of course. We stopped at Jane Bald for a lunch break. There were other hikers, but it was not as busy as anticipated. Back at Carvers, we decided to go to Cloudland. We visited Cloudland and then hiked south on the A.T. and discussed some Hard Core accomplishments.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

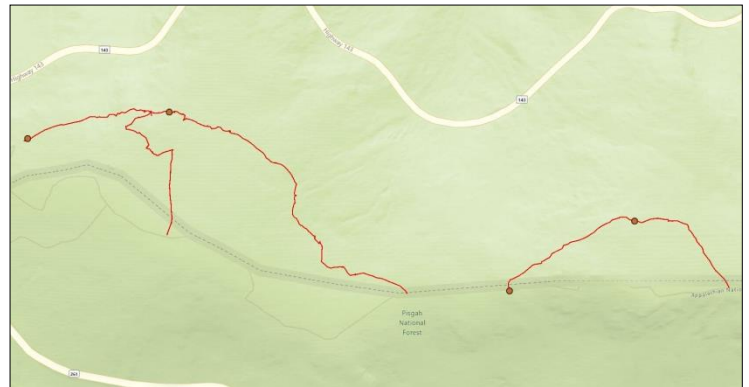
Date: 7/23/2022

Purpose: Roan Highlands VUM site visit

Location: Section 14c, Round Bald and Jane Bald

People: Tim Stewart, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Dan Firth

Summary: We did a site visit to determine the feasibility of a possible relocation around Round Bald. Dan created a route which we followed to Engine Gap. We bushwacked from the switchback in the woods and did not encounter any impassable obstructions. At Engine Gap we continued bushwacking around Jane Bald without any noticeable problems. We hiked back to Round Bald via the A.T. to see if a spur trail could be created from the possible relocation. Initially, it might be too steep, so further site visits are required. GPS was used to create some tracks. The routes around the Balds closely follow the contour lines. From our standpoint, a trail can be created with some viewpoints.



Reporting: Elzear Lemieux

Date: 7/24/2022

Purpose: A.T. Maintenance

Location: Section 4b, 1.8 miles north of TN 91

People: Elzear Lemieux, Emily Lemieux

Summary: We removed a 16 " blowdown 1.8 miles north of TN 91.