



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

September 2022

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

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

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A.T.: Beauty Spot, photo by Andy Steffan

## Letter from the Chair

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

Fall is quickly approaching, and I can't believe it! Since I know people enjoy hiking in the fall for the nicer weather and for the leaf change, I want to re-emphasize the great resource of the [TEHCC Trail Wiki](#) for local hiking ideas. You might be able to find some great new options. If you're not comfortable tackling a new trail yourself, several upcoming hikes intend to go places that might be less well-known, which will hopefully also help with finding new local favorites!

Work and life events can easily create stress. A study conducted by Stanford and published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* scientifically proved that hiking can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression! The study indicated that walking 90 minutes in a natural area setting as opposed to the same time in a high-traffic urban area led to decreased activity in a region of the brain associated with a key factor in depression. Besides the mental health benefits, you also get exercise while you're at it! How's that for a win-win? So I hope that's incentive enough to join us on the trails or on your own in the coming months. We have some great options for club-led hikes in September and October, and I hope you'll join us!

## Event Schedule – Next Two Months (continued on next page)

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
Sept 4	Laurel Run Trail Hike, 8:15 am	<a href="#">Sal Arena</a>	919-819-3323
Sept 10	Hiking with Tools!	<a href="#">Tim Stewart</a>	
Sept 10	Darwin's Revenge Hike, 10:00 am – 11:15 am	<a href="#">Josh Hayes</a>	
Sept 15	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1:00 pm	<a href="#">Andy Steffan</a>	423-229-6492

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Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
Sept 17	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9 am – 2 pm	<a href="#">Tony Messina</a>	423-677-6650
Sept 17	Pinnacle State Natural Area Preserve Hike, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm	<a href="#">Andy Steffan</a>	919-928-4738
Sept 24	A.T.: Little Rock Knob Hike, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm	<a href="#">Vic Hasler</a>	423-416-3166
Oct 8	Hiking with Tools!	<a href="#">Tim Stewart</a>	
Oct 15	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9 am – 2 pm	<a href="#">Tony Messina</a>	423-677-6650
Oct 20	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1:00	<a href="#">Andy Steffan</a>	423-229-6492
Oct 21	TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting, 5:30 pm	<a href="#">Josh Hayes</a>	
Oct 22	Chimney Rocks Hike, Greeneville, TN, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm	<a href="#">Andy Steffan</a>	919-928-4738

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>.

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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.

#### **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.

#### **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

### **Laurel Run Trail Hike, Sunday, September 4, 2022, 8:15 am**

Contact: [Sal Arena](#), 919-819-3323

Rating: 4.3 miles, out-and-back

Location: [Laurel Run Parking Area](#), 364 Laurel Run Park Road, Church Hill, TN

Enjoy this 4.3 mile out-and-back trail near Church Hill, Tennessee. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 1 hr 52 minutes to complete. This is a popular trail for hiking, but you can still enjoy some solitude during quieter times of the day. The trail is open year-round and is beautiful to visit anytime. Dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash.



### **Darwin's Revenge, Saturday, September 10, 2022, 10:00 – 11:15 am**

Contact: [Josh Hayes](#)

Rating: Easy, 2.2 mile loop, 300 ft elevation gain

Location: [Warrior's Path](#), 1425 Freeman Road, Blountville, TN 37617

(Weather Permittig) Located in Warrior's Path State Park and part of the Mountain Bike Trail system, Darwin's Revenge is one of the three main loops to hike or bike. Good for stretching your legs, but don't expect seclusion or sounds of nature as this trail in particular stays close to I-81, but it does offer some good views of the river. [Darwin's Revenge – TEHCC Wiki](#)

Dogs are welcome and it is recommended to bring water. Overall an easy 2.2 mile loop with approximately 300 ft of elevation gain. Address listed is for parking so we will meet in the lot and head to the trail head.

### **Pinnacle State Natural Area Preserve Hike, Saturday, September 17, 2022, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm**



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

Rating: Moderate, 4 miles (several trails combined)

Location: [Pinnacle State Natural Area Preserve](#), 800 State Park Road, Lebanon, VA 24266

This hike will explore all the Preserve has to offer! There are several smaller waterfalls (Big Falls and Spring Falls), a rock formation, and some decent views! What more could you ask for all within 5 miles of hiking. The park sits in SW VA at the intersection of the Big Cedar Creek and Clinch Rivers, approx. 25 miles from Abingdon. Bring water and snacks!

**Directions:** From I-81 at Abingdon, take ALT 58 west through town to US Route 19N. Go approx. 20 miles to Business 19 in Lebanon. At second light, turn left onto Route 82 West. Go 1.1 miles to Route 640 (River Mountain Rd) and turn right. Go 4.2 miles and turn left onto Route 721 (gravel road). Go 0.8 miles to parking area on left.

### **A.T.: Little Rock Knob Hike, Saturday, September 24, 2022, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm**

Contact: [Vic Hasler](#), 423-416-3166

Rating: Easy, 4.4 miles round-trip

Location: Hughes Gap Road, Roan Mountain, TN 37687

A recent focused survey learned that club members really want a leader to guide them on a 3-5 mile hike to enjoy a waterfall or overlook, leaving Saturday morning between 8-10 am for no more than 45-90 minute travel time. These filters hit this hike which is a 75 minute drive from the Colonial Heights meeting place. This hike is along the Appalachian Trail through hardwood forest to great views at Little Rock Knob (elevation 4918'). Bring water, snack, comfortable footwear, bug spray, and trekking poles.



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Please call/e-mail the leader to confirm headcount for transportation.

### **Chimney Rocks Hike, Greeneville, TN, Saturday, October 22, 2022, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm**

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

Rating: Moderate, 4.5 miles, 1100 elevation gain

Location: Chimney Rocks Parking Area, Greeneville, TN, Weaver's Bend Road, Del Rio, TN 37727

I hope you'll join me on a nice hike south of Greeneville, TN on the Chimney Rocks Trail. We will be rewarded with lovely views of an oxbow of the French Broad River at Weaver's Bend. The hike is mostly uphill on the way there, so be prepared with water and snacks for enjoyment/refueling at the top. Hopefully we will also have views of leaf change as well and hope a few leaves have dropped to give us a more expansive view! As always, pace will be managed for what's best for everyone in the group. There's an option to extend and make a 6.5 to 7 mile loop, but that can be decided later depending on group interest.

**Directions:** Trailhead address is hard to locate on a map, so I provided directions. From Greeneville, head south on TN-70 (Asheville Hwy) for 9 miles. Turn right/west on TN-107 for 8.5 miles. Turn left/south on paved Brush Creek Road (also called FS 209). Travel 3.5 miles on this narrow, winding, one-lane road. Turn left/east on unpaved Weaver's Bend Road, crossing single lane bridge. Travel 1.8 miles on this narrow dirt road to a large parking lot. Do not cross the railroad tracks. Parking lot 0.1 miles before trailhead. I'm open to carpooling. If interested, please reach out.



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## **TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting, Friday, October 21, 2022**

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Contact: [Vic Hasler](#), 423-416-3166

The club is excited to offer a chance to learn about a familiar nearby landscape – Grandfather Mountain. Author Randy Johnson will share from the stories that he has gathered about how the property was developed, plus his experiences hiking and enjoying the landscape. For more information about Randy and his publications, see webpage: [Randy Johnson Books](#)

Dinner is **\$10/person** which includes beverages, dessert, and tip. Attending only the program is free. We will need a **paid** headcount to properly size the food order. Please let Steering Committee Treasurer [Josh Hayes](#) know who is coming by Monday, October 17. Make checks payable to Josh and mail to his attention via plant mail to Building 12 or to 2508 Michelle Drive, Kingsport, TN 37660.

Event	Time	Details
Fall Dinner Meeting, October 21, 2022	5:30 pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
Happy "Trails" Hour	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Donations accepted for beer and wine, or BYOB
Dinner – BBQ chicken and pork with beans, potato salad, mac & cheese plus tea/lemonade/water, coffee and dessert	6:30 pm - 7:15 pm	Phil's Dream Pit Beverages and dessert by the Steering Committee (\$10 per person)
Club Business	7:15 pm - 7:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Update of club activities</li><li>ATC Volunteer Awards</li></ul>
Program: <i>Grandfather Mountain</i>	7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Randy Johnson, Travel Author / Editor (Banner Elk, NC)

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## **A.T. Vista: August 4 – 7, 2023**

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Contact: [Vic Hasler](#), 423-416-3166

**Save the Date...** A long weekend to be Wild & Free in Johnson City, Tennessee. Don't miss out on the inaugural A.T. Vista program that will be based out of East Tennessee State University (ETSU). Planning is underway for hikes, workshops, excursions, and nightly entertainment as the region celebrates the Appalachian Trail. Check out website [atvista2023.org](http://atvista2023.org)

Registration discounts are to be provided to all volunteers! The event will need volunteers to lead or co-lead hikes in Tennessee and North Carolina, chaperone one of the many fun excursions, or provide assistance during a workshop session. (You don't need to be

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from the area to volunteer in any of these roles!) Email [atvista2023@gmail.com](mailto:atvista2023@gmail.com) or signup on the [Volunteer page](#).

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## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

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Sriraam Ramanathan Chandrasekaran  
Tori Hargis  
Jeb Shaw

Meagan Espinoza  
Carrie Hovey  
Mackenzie Simpson

Gordon Garber  
Van Hovey  
Chad Summey

Claire Hammontree  
Nina Pearson  
Robert Wright

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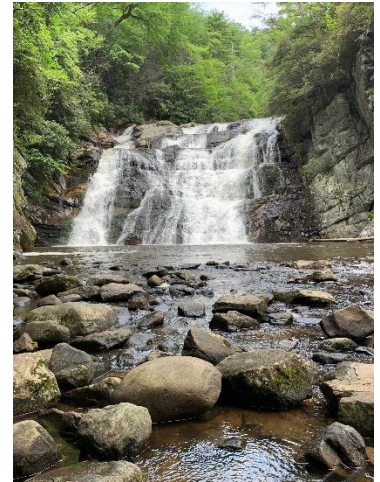
## For the Record

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### A.T.: Laurel Fork Falls Hike, August 6, 2022

*Andy Steffan reporting*

Although we caught a few raindrops on the way to Hampton, fortunately there was not a single raindrop on the trail! The temperature was relatively mild for an August morning, which was nice. There were several other people already tackling the trail as we started. It was evident very early on that the water was flowing well and that we were in for a treat at the falls! We took a brief stop shortly into the hike to take in the magnificent views of the rock face next to the creek. The hike was not too challenging in the heat due to the running water nearby almost the entire time. There was a hornet nest a little way off the trail on the right side as you got fairly close to the Falls, but there did not seem to be much activity when we passed. We reached the falls in about 1.5 hours. We enjoyed taking in the falls, relaxing, snacking, and watching two dogs play fetch in the pool below the falls. We had a few claps of thunder overhead as we were reaching the end. Total hike length was approx. 5.5 miles. Attendees were: Andy Steffan, Jackie Steffan, Keith Bennett, Debbie Bennett, Jeff Hoskins, Hanieh Niroomand, and Kimia Ataran.



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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).



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## A.T. Maintenance Reports

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### Appalachian Trail Club Helps Cherokee National Forest with Trail Work

*From August 10, 2022 news release by Cherokee National Forest*

*Summarized by Vic Hasler*

CNF/Watauga District and TEHCC installed bog bridges and repaired steps in the Bradley Gap section of the Appalachian Trail. The club reached out to Forest Service officials last summer with a solution to mitigate an area constantly wet, resulting in associated trail issues. TEHCC built bog bridges and installed locust posts in the area to rehab steps. Forest Service officials provided UTV support in transporting all the materials from the bottom to the top of the mountain.

"Working along with the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club has helped a lot in being able to maintain the Appalachian Trail and ensuring the safety of the public," said Chad Ingle, Natural Resource Specialist for the Cherokee National Forest. Also see Joe



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Morris's Maintenance Report below dated August 4, 2022.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 7/13/2022

**Purpose:** Inspect and clear trail

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

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed cleared the trail bed in the woods beyond Osborne Farm. There is a 16" dead oak blowdown 1.9 miles from TN 91. He carried a bundle of locust stakes half way to shelter and carried a section of guttering to the shelter. The lower spring at the shelter has a half inch flow. He built a short section of stone crib.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 7/14/2022

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

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

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed spread gravel on the access ramp of the accessible trail. He also built a short section of stone or wood trailside curbing.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 7/21/2022

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

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

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed spread 4 wheelbarrow loads of gravel around the bench at the end of the accessible trail. In the woods beyond the farm, he cleaned one mile of trail bed and built 80 feet of stone cribbing.

**Reporting:** Bettye Boone

**Date:** 7/23/2022

**Purpose:** Cut back vegetation along Grassy Ridge Spur Trail

**Location:** Grassy Ridge Spur Trail

**People:** Bettye Boone, Saylor Fox

**Summary:** We cut back encroaching vegetation along the trail and brushed in short-cuts.

**Reporting:** Dan Firth

**Date:** 7/26/2022

**Purpose:** Campsite Inventory Training

**Location:** Damascus Trail Center

**People:** Dan Firth, Renee Messina

**Summary:** We attended two days of training on campsite inventory procedures and field practice.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 7/28/2022

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

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

**People:** Jeff Willhelm, Michael Watson, Carl Fritz, Tony Messina, Greg Kramer, Dan Firth, Bob Peoples, Elzear Lemieux

**Summary:** The Thursday crew split into two groups to work south of Hughes Gap for rehab and cleaning of waterbars. This crew completed 201 feet of rehabilitation.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 7/28/2022

**Purpose:** Mow and remove blowdowns

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

**People:** Bill Murdoch, Joe Morris, Jeff Hatling, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** This team from the Thursday crew hiked north to Ash Gap from Hughes Gap cutting weeds and removed 4 blowdowns.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 7/30/2022

**Purpose:** Mow weeds

**Location:** Section 14c, Grassy Ridge to Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Van Hovey, Joe Morris

**Summary:** Van and I mowed weeds from Grassy Ridge to Stan Murray Shelter. We also removed two blowdowns with a silky. It was a very long day; but, the section is done and free of obstructions.



**Reporting:** Van Hovey

**Date:** 8/2/2022

**Purpose:** Clear trail of reported blowdown and cut weeds

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

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

**Summary:** Along the walk to the blowdown at bridge #3, we encountered two smaller obstructions, both no larger than perhaps 6" in diameter. We also broke up a few fire rings and picked up trash. The blowdown at the bridge was basswood whose branches completely covered the trail making it impassable. Lotta, Ken, and Carrie swamped and Van was the sawyer. After the trail was cleared, Lotta and Ken walked out while Carrie and Van continued on, with Carrie cutting weeds and Van lopping behind. Along the way, another blowdown was encountered obstructing the trail. This blowdown was above the trail for several years, but finally settled enough to cause an impediment. After Carrie finished cutting weeds and made her way back, we cleared the blowdown and walked out, cleaning up the few stretches of overgrowth that were passed on the walk in. One easy step-over beyond bridge #4 was left for a future date, as time was an issue.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/3/2022

**Purpose:** Inspect trail and clear branches and vegetation

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

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed found good water flow at the spring at Double Springs Shelter. He cleaned the much littered trail of branches in the woods. And he removed trailside vegetation as needed.

**Reporting:** Jeffrey A. Hatling, Roan Naturalist

**Date:** 8/3/2022

**Purpose:** Whack weeds

**People:** Jeff Hatling

**Location:** Section 14b, Overmountain Trail to the Stan Murray Shelter

**Summary:** I weed whacked with my gas weed whacker from Overmountain Trail to Stan Murray Shelter, focusing on the up-hill side. The spring was running well. I also picked up a small amount of trash.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/4/2022

**Purpose:** Spread gravel and mow

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

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed spread 15 wheelbarrow loads of gravel on 250 feet of accessible trail. He also mowed around the two USFS parking lots.

**Reporting:** Dan Firth

**Date:** 8/4/2022

**Purpose:** Roan Highlands Campsite Inventory

**Location:** Section 14a, Doll Flats to Bradley Gap

**People:** Dan Firth, Renee Messina

**Summary:** We inventoried campsites south of Little Hump to Doll Flats documenting location and measuring condition indicators.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 8/4/2022

**Purpose:** Install bog bridge and water diversions

**Location:** Section 14b, Bradley Gap

**People:** Joe Morris, Mike Watson, Jeff Willhelm, Bob Peoples, Bill Murdoch, David Cook, Kevin Sedgwick, Tony Messina, Tim Stewart, Jeff Hatling



**Summary:** The crew installed 32 feet of bog bridge at Bradley Gap and 6 new locust water diversions south of the gap. Matthew Gilbert and Chad Ingle of the USFS provided UTV support shuttling part of the crew and all of the materials from Upper Shell Creek. They also returned at the end of the day to shuttle part of the crew and all the tools down the mountain.



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Their support was integral to a successful outing. Additional opportunities are available in the area; however, a major problem area was greatly improved.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 8/6/2022

**Purpose:** Check section

**Location:** Section 11b, Canute Place

**People:** Tim Stewart

**Summary:** I beat the rain ... mostly! I hiked in via the new found side road. It is 1.25 miles from the trail with about 0.3 mile of bushwacking. It was a bit too far to hike all the way to the Canute Place, but that was my destination. I stopped at Moreland Gap Shelter long enough to put a coat of paint on the graffiti board. I continued on to Canute Place with the hope of beating the thunderstorms. I removed a few minor blowdowns and used the battery trimmers in several places. At Canute Place, I cleared the weeds/grass down to the spring and on the trail. The spring was flowing nicely. Thunder was booming, but rain drizzled only a few times. I was hoping to make it back without getting wet. I literally made it to the shelter just as a hard downpour began. It lasted for 20-30 minutes which gave me enough time to recoat the graffiti board and take a short break, which by now I needed. It was rather uneventful back to the car with some light rain.

**Reporting:** Greg Kramer

**Date:** 8/10/2022

**Purpose:** Put up Temporary A.T. markers

**Location:** Section 9b, Pond Flats to Hampton trailhead, Atwood Property

**People:** Greg Kramer

**Summary:** I installed 4 temporary A.T. trail markers . The markers on the access road toward Shook Branch were cut down earlier this week. I used metal T-posts, wire, wood, and paint to create trail markers. Six-foot T-posts were pounded 2 feet into the ground; previously drilled holes were used to wire the wood with A.T. blazes to the posts.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/12/2022

**Purpose:** Spread gravel

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

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed spread nine wheelbarrow loads of gravel on 200 feet of accessible trail.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/12/2022

**Purpose:** Inspect for future trail projects

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

**People:** Carl Fritz

**Summary:** I checked the gravel project for Wright State University students next week at Carver's Gap, inventoried locust logs stored on Round Bald, and checked locust stored on NC side of Carver's Gap. I also determined what locust materials may be needed to install additional water diversions on Jane Bald. I finally met Thomas Hatling on his last day as the Roan Naturalist.



swimming. (They were warned of potential danger.) After lunch, 3 of us hiked to the shelter while Carol returned via the steps. We continued to lop and removed a minor blowdown. We removed some trash from some campsites and the shelter. There was a steady flow of dayhikers from both trailheads. It was a good day to be on the trail.

**Reporting:** Dan Firth

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 8/13/2022

**Purpose:** 2nd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!

**Location:** Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Laurel Fork Falls

**People:** Tim Stewart, Carol Geiger, Jack Geiger, Lori Mirrer

**Summary:** Finally, the weather cooperated for our "Hiking with Tools!" adventure. It even started off a little bit cool. We met at Dennis Cove Trailhead. After waiting for any late arrivals (there were several last minute cancellations), we then hiked down to Laurel Fork Falls. We lopped rhodos along the way and removed a couple of other minor trail obstructions. Once at the Falls, we stopped for a lunch break and watched some hikers get too close to the Falls while



**Date:** 8/16/2022

**Purpose:** VUM (Visitor Use Management) Campsite Inventory

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

**People:** Dan Firth, Renee Messina

**Summary:** As had planned to inventory campsites on Grassy Ridge. The clouds opened up as we reached the ridge's terminus.

**Reporting:** Greg Kramer

**Date:** 8/16/2022

**Purpose:** Spread gravel on turnpikes and trail at Carvers Gap

**Location:** Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Cloudland Hotel, and Carvers Gap Parking lot

**People:** Greg Kramer, Caitlyn Schmitt, Mara Ciriaco, Brandon Banks, Caleb Brooks, Taira Gonzalez, Isaac Mulumba, Silas Haam, Andrea Reid, Matthew Duncan, Emmaliese Huff, Aubree Bear, Paul Casper, Logan Ratliff, Aria Prasad, Michael Valencia, Anthony Nicola, Ava McIntosh, Sarah Cain, Mason Knickerbocker, Serenity Page, Garret Henry, Clayton Matheny, Harmirde Digeh Laingr, Noor Siddiqui, Bob Peoples, Rio Berry, Saylor Fox, Tim Stewart, Tony Messina, Kevin Sedgwick, Carl Fritz

**Summary:** Twenty-six Wright State students and advisors came to hike and do a service project on the A.T. They spread three tons of gravel between the treadway and some turnpikes. A total of 150 of feet of trail was rehabbed. This was completed just before 1 PM when it started to rain.

**Reporting:** Dan Firth

**Date:** 8/18/2022

**Purpose:** VUM Campsite Inventory

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

**People:** Dan Firth, Renee Messina

**Summary:** We mapped and measured campsites from Doll Flats to US 19E.

**Reporting:** Greg Kramer

**Date:** 8/18/2022

**Purpose:** Cut weeds using a string trimmer

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

**People:** Greg Kramer, Tony Messina, Tim Stewart, Elzear Lemieux, Carl Fritz

**Summary:** The whole trail was cleared of weeds. Carl cleaned waterbars to about 2 miles in from US 421. Two blowdowns were removed.

**Reporting:** Joel Zabel

**Date:** 8/20/2022

**Purpose:** Clear blowdown from trail

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS230 switchback, about 3/4 mile north of Low Gap

**People:** Yong Li, Ed Brading, Joel Zabel, Jim Foster

**Summary:** A 24" diameter, 16' blowdown trunk fell across the A.T. With two rock bars, we were able to roll most of it down the slope and off the trail. Yong Li then cut the remaining 4 feet off the end with a chainsaw to open the trail to its proper width.

**Reporting:** Van Hovey

**Date:** 8/23/2022

**Purpose:** Remove blowdown left from last venture

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

**People:** Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey

**Summary:** On the way out, we encountered a couple of new, smaller blowdowns that we also removed. On return trip some lopping was done. The trail is in good condition and surprisingly dry considering the amount of rain that has been occurring.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/23/2022

**Purpose:** Cut hazard tree at Roan High Knob Shelter

**Location:** Section 15a, Carvers Gap - Cloudland Hotel Roan High Knob Shelter

**People:** Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** A hazard tree was reported to ATC late last week. It was a red spruce. The main trunk had died and fell over some time ago. A living 12" branch had grown straight up about three feet from the stump. All its branches were hanging towards the shelter. With the Maasdam rope puller, a couple of ropes, and a lot of sawing, we safely got it to the ground. It will provide a lot of future fire wood, since the longest trunk piece was about four feet.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/23/2022

**Purpose:** Roan VUM: Seek new spur trail and prep logs

**Location:** Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap, Round Bald

**People:** Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We sought another approach trail to the top of Round Bald. We concluded that the existing one is as low inclination as we can achieve. We moved two 10' locusts to Carver's Gap for the upcoming project on Thursday.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/24/2022

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

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

**People:** Carl Fritz, Dick Martindale, Tony Messina, Mike Watts

**Summary:** We removed minor blowdowns. Also, we felled some trees on the lower side of the trail that were threatening to damage the trail when they fell. A couple of sets of three large trees were the most ominous. One set was already separating the trail. The trail is clear for now.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/24/2022

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 14a, Doll Flats to Hump Mountain

**People:** Carl Fritz, Dick Martindale

**Summary:** We cleared blowdowns, mostly stepovers and future winter problems. This section is now clear.

**Reporting:** Joe Morris

**Date:** 8/25/2022

**Purpose:** General maintenance and install signs

**Location:** Section 14c, Round Bald to Grassy Ridge

**People:** TEHCC: Van Hovey, Tim Stewart, David Cook, Jeff Hatling, Joe Morris, Greg Kramer, Bill Murdoch, Dick Martindale, Carl Fritz, Tony Messina, Elzear Lemieux

NCCC: Katherine Arnold, Joseph Haskins, Camden Hart, Caleb Bohrer, Hailey Angerstein, Kira O'Hare, Jack Ambarian, Dylan Tutt

ATC: Brenden Mysliwiec, Drew Ball

**Summary:** The Thursday crew was joined by Americorp NCCC, and Brenden and Drew of ATC for the purpose of installing new signage on Round Bald, Jane Bald, and Grassy Ridge. Other completed tasks were as follows: the piped spring was rehabbed at Stan Murray Shelter, and 12 rock steps and 3 new berm water diversions were cut near Grassy Ridge Trail intersection. Also, three locust water diversions (transported by the new Cart from Purgatory) were installed near Jane Bald and 2 new stone water diversions were installed on the slope leading to Jane Bald.



**Reporting:** Jake Mitchell

**Date:** 8/26/2022

**Purpose:** Weed and mow

**Location:** Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter, Overmountain Shelter and Blue-Blaze

**People:** Jake Mitchell

**Summary:** I took a trip up to the barn to mow. On the way, I had to stop and clear a blowdown across the gravel road just a couple hundred yards past the FS gate. Just past that is a major new washout in the gravel road. No problem for the Tundra, but a Chevy might struggle. Of course it rained right before I got there, which made the mowing a two-pass venture on much of the field. Surprisingly, there were an abundance of overnight campers; more than 15 by the time I left. I was going to cut back the weeds on the blue-blaze, but it started to rain again.

**Reporting:** Dan Firth

**Date:** 8/27/2022

**Purpose:** VUM - Campsite Inventory

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

**People:** Dan Firth, Renee Messina

**Summary:** We inventoried campsites along the Grassy Ridge Spur Trail.

**Reporting:** Aaron Brown

**Date:** 8/27/2022

**Purpose:** Regular Maintenance

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

**People:** Aaron Brown, Joe Morris

**Summary:** Joe and I took the guardrail shortcut and walked in at the campsite. A locust log was cut for future repair at the switchback just below the upper campsite. We walked down and cut vegetation and removed one blowdown. Then, heading back up from the campsite, we cut one major blowdown and cut back the nettles and other vegetation using a swing blade. We also identified a few locations where the tread way could use some light rehab. Overall, the trail is in good shape and we had a great day.