



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

November 2022

tehcc.org

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

In This Issue

[Letter from the Chair](#)

[Event Schedule – Next Two Months](#)

[Details of Upcoming Events](#)

[October 21, 2022, Fall Dinner Report](#)

[South Beyond 6000 Challenge](#)

[TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)

[For the Record](#)

[Trail Wiki Hike Summary](#)

[A.T. Maintenance Reports](#)



Letter from the Chair

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

Another Fall Dinner in the books! Thanks to everyone who came out and hope you enjoyed it! We have a few hikes left in the year, so I hope you get a chance to enjoy those. If there are any suggestions you have for next year's hiking season, we'd be interested in hearing from you. Next month I'll provide a year-in-review summary of the club led hikes. Be on the lookout next month for our Steering Committee voting. If you are interested in volunteering on the Steering Committee, please reach out! It's generally a two-year term and only involves a few hours a month of your time. You do not have to be an active Eastman employee to volunteer. Volunteering would be a great way to stay closely engaged with the club's activities and allow you to put your own ideas into action for others to enjoy!

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

For the latest, up-to-date information, see tehcc.org/schedule.

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

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
Nov 5	South Holston Spillway Trail, 9:30 am – 11:30 am	Andy Steffan	423-229-6492
Nov 12	Hiking with Tools!	Tim Stewart	
Nov 13	Laurel Run Trail Hike, 9 am	Sal Arena	919-819-3323
Nov 17	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1:00	Andy Steffan	423-229-6492
Nov 19	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9 am – 2 pm	Tony Messina	423-677-6650
Dec 15	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1:00	Andy Steffan	423-229-6492
Dec 17	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9 am – 2 pm	Tony Messina	423-677-6650

[Back to Top](#)

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. Teams teleconferencing is used as the committee is spread across the Eastman plant site or working from home. 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 Messing](#), 423-677-6650

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

Scheduled Events

South Holston Spillway Trail, Saturday, November 5, 2022, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

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

Rating: Easy, ~3.5 miles, 450' elevation gain

Location: South Holston Spillway Trail Parking Area, S Holston Dam Road, Bristol Tennessee 37620

Looking for a nice, relatively easy, wide gravel trail that's relatively close-by in Bristol? Here's a great opportunity to join the club on a fairly short hike to a view of the South Holston Lake and surrounding mountains. We will travel approx. 3.5 miles (total) on this out-and-back trail through the woods until we reach the clearing at lake level. Bring some water and a few snacks! Optional if people are interested is to tack on the very easy Osceola Island loop on our way back to see neat fishing weirs and great views of the river (< 1.5 miles).

Driving directions: On I-81, take exit 69. Turn right (east) onto TN 394 for 12 miles, which goes past BMS. Turn right (south) onto US 421 and travel 3 miles. Turn right (south) onto Emmett Road (South Holston Dam sign) and travel 1 mile. Veer right (south) onto Holston View Dam Road. Continue past Osceola Island parking area. Near the base of the dam, take sharp right onto S. Holston Dam Road. Pass picnic area on left. Parking is a small gravel pull-off (for about a half-dozen cars) on right before reaching the top of the dam.



Laurel Run Trail Hike, Sunday, November 13, 2022, 9:00 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 hour 52 minutes to complete. This 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.

October 21, 2022, Fall Dinner Report

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

About 45 club members joined us for a lovely dinner meeting. After Happy Hour and a great all-you-can-eat dinner from Phil's Dream Pit, we covered a summary of the club-led hikes and celebrated some wonderful trail maintenance accomplishments! Special recognition was given to Joe Morris, who achieved the Presidential Award for over 4000 hours of extraordinary service. Definitely reach out and congratulate him on such an accomplishment! Following the club business, we invited Randy Johnson (award-winning author from North Carolina) to talk about Grandfather Mountain; its history and his personal experiences. It detailed some of the life of people who had huge impacts on developing the mountain into what it is today and maintaining the natural landscape.

Trail maintenance awards include:

100 cumulative A.T. hours – patch

Edward Brading, Jeff Hatling, Yong Li, Dick Martindale, Tom Sahlin, Denny Samuel

500 cumulative A.T. hours – ballcap

Van Hovey, Renee Messina, Ed Speer

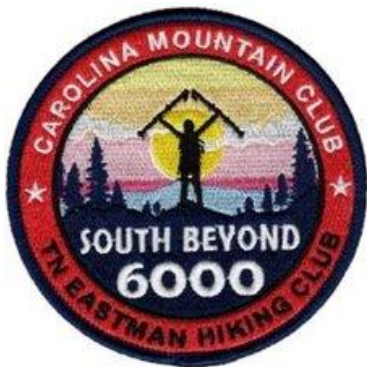
40 miles on club-sponsored hikes or 40 hours of A.T. field maintenance since January 2021 – TEHCC pint glasses

Jeff Hatling, Ken and Lotta Murray, Rick Lott, and Jake Mitchell



South Beyond 6000 Challenge

Submitted by Vic Hasler



SB6K is a hiking challenge jointly sponsored by the TN Eastman and Carolina Mountain clubs with a goal of reaching 40 of the highest and most outstanding peaks in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. These include not only Grassy Ridge (6160'), Roan High Knob (6285'), and Roan High Bluff (6267'), but also Mt LeConte (6593'), Plott Balsam (6088'), Mt Craig (6647'), and Cold Mountain (6030'). Challenge details are posted on the CMC website ([here](#)).

At the Fall Dinner, active members who have completed this peak challenge were recognized again with the updated patch: James Foster, Bruce Darby, Emmett Dougherty, Kent Wilson, and Nancy Wilson.

The new patch was redesigned by Chris Koebelin (CMC)

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Tay Egres

Mark Limke

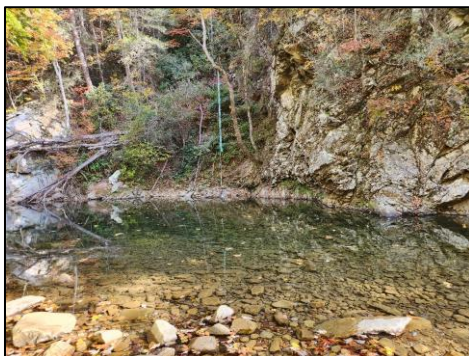
Cheyenna Johnson

For the Record

Devil's Bathtub, October 15, 2022

Josh Hayes reporting

I waited for parking space at the farthest parking lot, about 1.5 miles from the trailhead. It takes roughly 2 miles if you take the left fork (which is the one I took) to get to the bathtub. The water was cold at the creek crossings, but the colors of fall were in full bloom! The parking was the only issue, and it was because of the Cloudsplitter 100 race being held that weekend. But because I parked far away, I got to pass a spooky looking house which was perfect for October! If you go, try to get parking closer to the trailhead. Attendee was Josh Hayes Solo.



Chimney Rocks Hike, October 22, 2022

Andy Steffan reporting

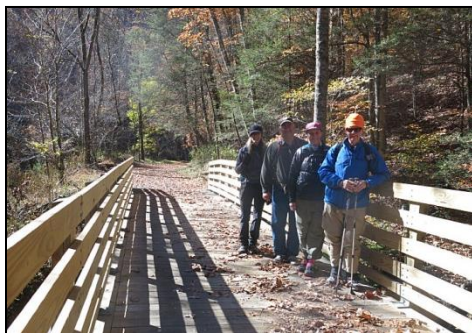
The weather was perfect for a fall hike! Unfortunately, there was a gate closed about 0.5 miles from the trailhead, so we had to tack on a little more mileage to begin our hike. We chose to do the entire Paint Mountain and Chimney Rocks loop since we already had to hike in. The trail ascended about 1300' elevation on the way to the overlook of an oxbow in the French Broad. The fall colors were impressive while hiking through the forest. We stopped several times to take it in. Since the leaves were beginning to fall, we also got many views along the way. Weirdly enough, the mountain making the oxbow was still mostly green, but surrounding colors were incredible. We ended up hiking 7.2 miles round-trip. A few of us also went to Buffalo Trail Orchard afterwards to pick our own apples! Attendees were Andy Steffan, Jackie Steffan, Jeff Hoskins, Medora Hoskins, Sarah King, and Elizabeth Jones.



Mendota Rails-to-Trails: Wolf Run Gorge, October 29, 2022

William Tindall reporting

The group of Kent and Nancy Wilson, Sarah King, Vic Hasler, and Bill and Judy Tindall spent a glorious fall day hiking south from the Phillips Road trailhead into the newly opened section of the Mendota Trail (check out mendotatrail.org) into Wolf Run Gorge. The gorge has a towering 600' cliff on one side of the trail and a stream that has sculpted its way through the rocks on the other. We crossed the five most recently restored rail bridges, while Bill shared the history of the route conversion, especially the challenges of managing the flow of water to avoid destroying retaining walls. Many of the scenic water features have rock benches where hikers can stop and enjoy the view. After returning to the parking lot, the group took a bonus hike north toward Mendota across three bridges restored last year. We enjoyed lunch in the sunshine at the appropriately named overlook on the Sunny Side Bridge over the Holston River.



Hikers along new trestle



Scrap lumber picnic tables



A great resting spot

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

Trail Maintenance Summary for October 2021 to September 2022

Assembled by Joe Morris

9,353 Hours by 208 Volunteers over 381 Events

- Opening of Atwood Property near Shook Branch, 12/2/2021
- Privy relocation at Overmountain Shelter
- Relocation between the bridges in the Wilderness Area in Laurel Fork Gorge
- Significant rehab between Backbone Rock Trail and Abingdon Gap Shelter
- Wright State University annual maintenance with rehab project near Carvers Gap
- Roan Mountain Visitor Use Management: Compilation and mapping of relocation history in the Roans by Firth, Fritz, and Oliver
- Campsite inventory completion by Firth and R. Messina
- TEHCC distribution of 4000th Volunteer Patch in June on National Trails Day

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: June through September 2022

Purpose: Visitor Use Management (VUM) Roan Highlands Meetings and Preparation

Location: Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap, Office and at Home

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: Hours have been spent directly engaged with the VUM program for the Roan Highlands, preparing for and attending the teleconferences for the Strategic and Facilitation teams.

Reporting: Steven Perri

Date: September 2022

Purpose: VUM Meetings and Sign Work

Location: Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap, Roan Mtn

People: Steve Perri

Summary: Hours have been spent for the VUM process meetings; taking and reporting minutes, archiving, and working on signs.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/7/2022

Purpose: Rehab trail

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

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed worked on cribbing and steps in the woods north of Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/8 and 9/9/2022

Purpose: Rehab shelter

Location: Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed used a wheelbarrow to haul flat rocks and field stones to the shelter.

[Back to Top](#)

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/14 and 9/15/2022

Purpose: Mostly rehab shelter

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

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed hauled tools and more flat stones to the shelter. He also cut a 7-inch blowdown. The following day, he began building a stone porch/stoop in front of the sleeping platform.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/21 and 9/22/2022

Purpose: Rehab shelter and trail

Location: Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed completed the stone porch on the shelter. He also stabilized the exposed footers of the side walls. He then removed dirt from the rear and sides of the shelter to allow for better drainage and dug a drainage ditch on the left side of the shelter. He used the dirt to fill the rutted section of the trailbed south of the shelter (70 feet total). He also covered some exposed roots in trail north of the shelter.

Reporting: Jeff Hatling

Date: 9/25/2022

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter

People: Jeff Hatling, Dan Fortune

Summary: Dan and I removed two reported blowdowns south of Yellow Mountain Gap. I plan to walk the entire section after Ian moves on.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/29/2022

Purpose: Rehab Trail and Shelter

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

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed installed a "NOT A.T." sign at the entrance to the north field of Osborne Farm. Some NOBO hikers do not see the third stile on the farm. (Thanks to Carl for making the sign!) Ed cleared the trail to the shelter and removed a recent and an old blowdown. He inspected the shelter and spring, and placed flat stones under the legs of the shelter picnic table. He removed more dirt from the right side of the shelter and dumped it on trail both south and north of the shelter. He cleaned a waterbar just north of shelter, and used a wheelbarrow to haul rocks to the 2.4-mile mark south of shelter and began building stone cribbing.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/29/2022

Purpose: Trail rehab

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap, Mostly 1.5 miles south of Hughes Gap

People: Dean Baird, Jeff Hatling, Van Hovey, Carl Fritz, Elzear Lemieux, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart

Summary: On a beautiful cool day with some frost, we rehabbed south of Hughes Gap. We also removed an 18" blowdown and cleaned/enhanced some water diversions. We installed 30 feet of side logs to bury roots, and dug another 120 feet of roots and buried more. We also added 7 rock steps and 3 stepping stones. Van cut another 18" old blowdown that was sticking into newly dug trail.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 9/30/2022

Purpose: Check section wet areas

Location: Section 11b, Canute Place to Bitter End

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: I went in again via the new access point to recheck the wet areas for future maintenance and to do some lopping. The worst of the wet areas span about 1/2 mile and are easily accessible via the new access point. It would add about 0.35 of a mile of bushwacking. I've added a video to YouTube (mountainsquid04) highlighting the wet areas and the possible location of some locust logs just south of the wet areas. Some sort of bridges are probably necessary. While scouting things out, I encountered and removed two blowdowns. I was also hoping to discover a different way back to the dirt road. Twice I was waylaid by too many rhodos blocking the way.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 10/6/2022

Purpose: Install Peakfinder signs

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

People: Tim Stewart, Dick Martindale, Bob Peoples, Joe Morris, Jeff Hatling, Greg Kramer, Bill Murdoch, Carl Fritz, Elzear Lemieux, Van Hovey

Summary: The crew helped install the long-awaited Peakfinder signs on Round Bald. The acquisition of the signs was initiated by SAHC and paid for with a grant from ATC. The USFS assisted with the transport of materials to the work site. We also installed an "experiment" using Parmak Step-In Pigtail Posts and polypropylene rope creating a corral around each Peakfinder. Part of the crew ventured out to the summit of Grassy Ridge and installed the summit sign. A large contingency of day-use visitors were present on a fantastic day in the Highlands.



Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 10/6/2022

Purpose:

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

People: Van Hovey, Joe Morris

Summary: After lunch Van and I left the Regular Thursday Crew at Carvers Gap and went to Iron Mtn Gap to remove the large blowdown about 1/4 mile north of the gap.



Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 10/7/2022

Purpose: Check signage on Atwood Property

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US 321, Road through Atwood property

People: Greg Kramer

Summary: Signage was painted over and I came to repair it. Someone else had spray painted white blazes on posts and stumps of posts. While there, I checked out the trail at Shook Branch. I found a 12" Black Locust blocking the trail and a large social trail 50 feet away going down the steep bank and around the blowdown. The blowdown will be reported to Bill Fuller.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 10/8/2022

Purpose: Section Maintenance

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

People: Dan Firth

Summary: I cleaned the water diversions above Berry Fields. I also removed a number of small blowdowns and removed trash.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 10/8/2022

Purpose: Hiking with Tools!

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

People: Tim Stewart, Tammi Dunaway, Bud Schulte, Jim McGuire

Summary: It was a great fall day for Hiking with Tools! down to Laurel Fork Falls. We started from the Hampton blue-blaze trail where the trailhead parking lot was almost full in the morning (and full when we left). We lopped rhodos and other encroaching vegetation. We removed two small blowdowns, but left two large ones that are easily navigable, one under and one over. We had lunch at the shelter and then hiked via the high-water trail to the falls. Laurel Fork Gorge was spectacular with color, including the falls! On the blue-blaze trail there are several new signs. Unfortunately, they are not in the ground very well; they are very loose and can be lifted right out. I'd be surprised if they remain much longer. Thursday crew? or at the very least, let Forest Service know, before they end up in someone's basement. It was a great day with lots of hikers enjoying the falls. I gave out one patch.



Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 10/10/2022

Purpose: TEHCC A.T. Committee Meeting

Location: Eastman Recreation Center

People: Greg Kramer, Dan Firth, Renee Messina, Tony Messina, Carl Fritz, Steve Wilson, Bob Peoples, Joe Morris, Vic Hasler

Summary: The discussion covered current and upcoming trail maintenance projects plus other issues impacting the A.T. The 2022 efforts are being wrapped up. For 2023, potential projects being considered include log replacement to repair the Roan High Knob Shelter and tread improvements and repairs between Spivey Gap and Temple Hill Gap. A Maintainers Kickoff will be held Friday, February 24, evening with the A.T. Committee covering the meal cost. The next meeting will likely be held in early February 2023.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 10/10/2022

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

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

People: Kevin Sedgwick, Gloria Sedgwick

Summary: It was an awesome day to be out. Gloria shuttled me and helped a bit before leaving. I never know what I might find in my section. Today it was a gutted deer in a large garbage bag, probably thrown over at Bear Branch Rd. It rolled down, ripped open, and landed in the middle of the trail. With the rotting remains intertwined with the bag, I managed to roll it off trail down hill.

Now back to our normal trail stuff. I cleaned 20 waterbars, and added 3 waterbars and a step, some from a saved locust tree. I also added a stone step, cut vegetation as needed, broke up a campfire ring, and cut a few small blowdowns with hand saw. I'll have to come back with chainsaw to get 3 more. They aren't much of a problem for hikers to get over right now. I met about 16 section hikers on the trail.

Reporting: Lotta Murray

Date: 10/10/2022

Purpose: Maintenance

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

People: Ken Murray, Lotta Murray

Summary: We removed several small blowdowns, cut back vegetation, and picked up trash by the shelter. Two issues will require follow up maintenance. First, a very large oak, approximately 3 feet in diameter in a very steep area is very difficult to get around. It broke off from the roots, so nothing is holding it above. It appears it will slide when cut. We will need the cavalry for this one. It is approximately 2 miles in from DevilsGap. Second, the table at the shelter needs repairing again. The side board holding the seat rotted out and the two boards (seats) fell off. We think it can be repaired, but will need two 2x6, 8 feet long. The actual seats should be good to use again.

Reporting: Elzear Lemieux

Date: 10/11/2022

Purpose: A.T. Maintenance

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US 321, Just North of Shook Branch Rec Area

People: Elzear Lemieux, Emily Lemieux

Summary: We removed a 12" blowdown just north of Shook Branch Rec Area parking. We also trashed several social trails in the same area and picked up trash.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 10/13/2022

Purpose: Rehab and construct cribbing

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

People: Joe Morris, Elzear Lemieux, Bill Murdoch, Dick Martindale, Van Hovey, Dean Baird, Kevin Sedgwick, Greg Kramer, Carl Fritz

Summary: The crew created 276 feet of rehabbed trail (1.7 miles south of Hughes Gap), 25 feet of which was rock cribbed and/or locust cribbed. We had great weather and it was peak leaf season in the woods. This section is in great shape.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 10/14/2022

Purpose: Inspect trail, minor clearing

Location: Section 20a, Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I cleared a rhododendron tangle hanging into the trail between Temple Ridge and Temple Hill Gap. Otherwise, the trail is in good shape. I ran into two southbound thru-hikers, Happy Dancer and Bee Balm. Two day hikers were coming up the trail near the trailhead.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 10/20/2022

Purpose: Remove blowdowns and scout trail

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

People: John Beaudet, Van Hovey, Ken Murray, Dave Cook, Jeff Hatling, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Elzear Lemieux, Dick Martindale, Bill Murdoch, Tony Messina, Joe Morris

Summary: The crew removed a very large blowdown approximately one mile south of No Business Knob Shelter and locust cribbed or rehabbed 40 feet of trail. Also, a group scouted for future rehab opportunities between Temple Hill Gap and No Business Knob. The scout group removed two blowdowns within a mile of Temple Hill Gap.



Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 10/21/2022

Purpose: Walk Section

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Greg Kramer

Summary: I hiked south to check the waterbars installed earlier this year. Everything was in good shape.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/21/2022

Purpose: Roan VUM: Seek new trails at Round Bald

Location: Section 14c, Primarily Round Bald and some at Cloudland

People: Jerry Kyle – ATC, Chad Ingle - Watauga RD, Carl Fritz

Summary: Jerry Kyle, High Country Resource Manager of ATC, and Chad Ingle, Natural Resource Manager from Watauga Ranger District, joined me today on Round Bald. We bush whacked the potential new trail in the woods on TN side from Carver's Gap to Engine Gap. We also looked at the top side of the spur trail from the top of Round Bald to this new trail. Both Jerry and Chad are encouraged that the trails look promising. More planning continues. The Round Bald trail and especially the short trails to the Peakfinder signs were muddy from the recent freeze-thaw. Jerry and I explored the trails and facilities in the Cloudland area in the afternoon. The view from Roan High Bluff was tremendous, but leaf color is gone.

Reporting: Gerald Scott

Date: 10/22/2022

Purpose: Routine Fall Maintenance

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

People: Gerald Scott, Eric Scott, Harold Wexler

Summary: It was a beautiful fall day, which brought out a lot of day-hikers. The parking area at Elk River Falls was full. The shovel at Mountaineer Falls Shelter was missing. Other than that, the shelter was in good condition. There were several large blowdowns that will require a chainsaw crew to remove: one between Walnut Mtn Road and the shelter, two on the blue-blaze trail between the shelter and the water source, and two on the Sugar Hollow Creek to Campbell Hollow Road section between the Elk River and the turnoff to Elk River Falls. All could be stepped over or crawled under. I will send pictures and details to Carl Fritz and Tony Messina.

Reporting: Van Hovey

Date: 10/23/2022

Purpose: Clear reported blowdowns, check shelter and trail south of shelter

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

People: Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey

Summary: We picked up a small amount of trash in and around the shelter and checked on the log book (lost another one). Carrie painted over a small amount of graffiti and touched up a few worn areas. We also lopped some vegetation .

We found blowdowns within 1/4 to 1/2 mile south of the shelter. We cleared a 10" about chest high and a 14" about knee high. We saw one log that was snagged pretty well but currently not impeding hiker progress. We decided to see if mother nature would bring it down a little before cutting. The upper section of trail is currently clear, however there are a few treadway issues that could use some maintenance; trail sloughing, roots etc, but nothing dangerous or urgent. It was a beautiful day. Several SOBO section hikers and a couple of day hikers, of whom we asked for scouting info further south on the trail. They reported a couple more issues which we decided to tackle at a later date.

Reporting: Van Hovey

Date: 10/24/2022

Purpose: Clear reported blowdowns

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

People: Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey, Peggy Cantrell

Summary: From 10/23 information provided by a couple of day hikers, we decided to get after the reported blowdowns right away. First, was a tangle of several 14" logs on the ground just north of bridge # 4; not much of an impediment but worth clearing. Carrie and Peggy swamped and Van cut 'em up. We then proceeded north to 3/4 of the way between switchback #1 and #2 to clear a 10" laying across the trail. We walked out and lopped a bit here and there. Currently the trail is clear and in good condition. We saw one NOBO section hiker as we were walking out. It was another gorgeous day to be outside.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 10/26/2022

Purpose: Install boot brushes and repair fence at Peakfinders

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

People: Travis Bordley - SAHC, Van Hovey, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Tim Stewart

Summary: Primary task was to install two boot brushes at trail near Carver's Gap so visitors can brush their boots to remove foreign seeds before hiking the trail. Second task was to better secure the posts holding the rope fence near Peakfinders so they would less likely be lifted by ground freezing.



Reporting: Dick Martindale

Date: 10/27/2022

Purpose: Clear 5 blowdowns and assess future rehab opportunities

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Road to White Rocks/Coon Den Fall trail junction

People: David Cook, Dick Martindale

Summary: In addition to removing blowdowns we conducted an assessment of potential rehab opportunities. We determined that there are approximately 60 feet of cribbing that could be done, though it is not critical at the present time.