



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

March 2023

tehcc.org

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

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*Congratulations to Elzear Lemieux!
(See article, page 3)*

Letter from the Chair

Submitted by Josh Hayes (2023 Steering Committee Chair)

Hello friends,

As the March hare begins to stretch its legs, so does the winter weary hiker. This month will kick off a series of letters from the Steering Committee Chair geared at reminding us of our responsibilities as hikers to live in harmony with nature and the importance of safety as we tread out into the home of the surrounding wildlife. The first topic is Bear Safety.

There are three species of bear living in North America: Brown, Black, and Polar. While it is safe to say that unless you are visiting the arctic, the last one should be of little concern, it is possible to see black and brown bears. This matter doesn't mean you should be scared, just that you should use some common sense safety preparation. While planning your hike, do a bit of research into the area you will be entering to find the frequency of bear sightings and other watchouts. Learn how to use tools such as bear mace and pack some with you. Plan to hike in a group of three or more to increase the amount of noise and scent potential and even the chance that someone will be alert at a critical moment. If you are hiking alone, be sure to let someone know your plans and estimated time of your return. If at any point you or your party sees a bear or cub along your route, keep a safe distance and go around. In a situation where you or your party are being approached by a bear, attempt to calmly make yourselves as big as possible and make noise, but NEVER start running as not to provoke an attack. Finally, don't use headphones or anything that will keep you distracted from your surroundings, as awareness is the biggest tool in your chest to prevent a bear attack.

When out hiking there is no reason to fear a bear sighting if you follow common sense. If you do have an encounter, be sure to notify the park or forest service so that they can alert other hikers, so everyone can have a higher level of awareness.

Thanks all,
Josh

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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
March 11	Hiking with Tools!	Tim Stewart	
March 11	Watauga River Cleanup “Tailwater Roundup,” 2 pm – 7 pm	Debbie Briscoe	
March 16	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1 pm	Josh Hayes	
March 18	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9 am – 2 pm	Tony Messina	423-677-6650
April 8	Hiking with Tools!	Tim Stewart	
April 15	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9 am – 2 pm	Tony Messina	423-677-6650
April 20	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1 pm	Josh Hayes	
April 21	TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting, Save the Date		

Details of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, Third Thursday of Each Month, Noon to 1:00 pm

Contact: [Josh Hayes](#)

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

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.

Hiking with Tools! Second Saturday of Each Month, March through November

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. Typical tasks might include lopping rhododendrons, cleaning water diversions, clearing trail obstructions, painting blazes, etc. 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 and to sign up.

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 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

Hiking with Tools! Introduction to Trail Maintenance, Saturday, March 11, 2023, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm

Contact: [Tim Stewart](#)

The first outing for the season will be on 11 March and will be an 'Introduction to Trail Maintenance'. Inclement weather is frequent in March, so this outing will be at a lower elevation. Plan to meet at Shook Branch Recreation Area on US321 in Hampton, TN at 9:30. We'll hike to the former Watauga Lake Shelter site and back while discussing routine maintenance tasks. Regardless of the weather this is an easy hike. Maybe there will be some light snow! Email Tim for details and to sign up.

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TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting, Save the Date, Friday, April 21, 2023

The Steering Committee would like to invite you to the 2023 TEHCC Spring Dinner. This year we will be exploring the paddling side of the club with engaging speaker Brad Eldridge. Brad was just elected President of APEs (Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts) for 2023. He has served on the leadership team of APEs for several years, most recently in the VP role. He is an avid paddler and advocates for the paddling community. He teaches classes for NOLI and may give an overview of what they offer. The presentation will likely cover the types of boats (kayaks and canoes, flatwater vs whitewater), tips for beginners, overall safety, regional options for various classes of water, regional outfitters, and of course plenty of pictures and stories from Brad's whitewater adventures. This is intended to be useful and entertaining for everyone, regardless of paddling experience.

Event	Time	Details
Spring Dinner Meeting, April 21, 2023	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 – TBD	6:30 pm - 7:15 pm	
Club Business	7:15 pm - 7:30 pm	- Update of club activities - Awards
<i>Program: Paddling</i>	7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Andy Steffan – Overview of boating options and rentals Brad Eldridge – main speaker

AT2000 – Elzear Lemieux Completes the Appalachian Trail



Submitted by Vic Hasler

Congratulations to "Lazer" who completed the now 2,190+ mile-long Appalachian Trail journey on May 18, 2022, in West Cornwall, Connecticut. His adventure started in September 2018 along sections in Tennessee. Elzear states that his best experience was hiking the White Mountains in New Hampshire. He has also given back at least 840 hours to the Appalachian Trail as a regular maintainer. The AT2000 plaque will be presented from the club at the April 21st Spring Dinner.

TEHCC Kayak Rental Notice

Submitted by Andy Steffan

TEHCC Kayak/Canoe Rental Resuming March 13th

Hopefully the few recent warm weather days have peaked your interest to return to outdoor recreational activities; and with all the rain, there's plenty of water to paddle on! The Eastman Bays Mountain Rec Area is reopening in mid-March, which means kayak/canoe rentals will be available again! As a reminder, we have 6 flatwater kayaks and one canoe for rental, with optional trailer, and will provide paddles and life jackets. Reservation details can be found in the link below, but the general summary is to reserve 3 to 30 days in advance by contacting rental@tehcc.org. Kayak and gear must be transported in a personal vehicle. If there is enough interest, an outing with boat transportation to the location may be arranged.

More details on options, prices, and rental details can be found here:
<http://tehcc.org/rentals/paddling-equipment/>



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A.T. Vista: August 4 – 7, 2023

Contact: [Vic Hasler](#) or [Steve Perri](#)



The A.T. Vista program (atvista2023.org) based out of East Tennessee State University (ETSU) is a long weekend offering excursions, exhibits, hikes, workshops, and a pair of dinners as the region celebrates the Appalachian Trail and other outdoor opportunities. Schedules for excursions, hikes and workshops are now being assembled for registered participants to select starting in early May.

If you want to be a participant, Early Bird tickets for admission to all events are available through May 31st at \$100 adults, \$50 Youth (ages 16 & under). Currently, 45 folks have signed up as Early Birds with over half being from Virginia. The current goal is to have 400 participants engaged in these activities over the weekend.

If interested in leading a hike, making a presentation, or just helping with the event, please contact TEHCC or register at [Volunteer | AT Vista 2023](#). Assignments for these activities are underway with some being arranged by partner organizations closer to the August weekend. Hike leaders will have had prior experience with the routes. Please note that while paid participants can be volunteers; hike and presentation volunteers will not be able to register for the other activities without paying.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Darlene Echeverria

Bob Huff

Eric Kent

Perry Stuckey

Amy Tsui

For the Record

Annual Maintainer's Dinner, Friday, February 24, 2023

Renee Messina reporting

The kickoff meeting for the 2023 A.T. maintenance season was held on Friday, February 24, at the Eastman Lodge. It was well attended by what is thought to have been a record turnout of 66 maintainers and other individuals interested in helping to care for the Appalachian Trail. The dinner featured Phil's Dream Pit barbecue with various sides, as well as assorted beverages and desserts, including Ed Oliver's famous banana pudding. Following dinner, the program covered topics that included 2020-2022 accomplishments (post-pandemic catch-up), 2023 major project plans, and discussion of various issues related to TEHCC's trail maintaining responsibilities. In addition, 24 individuals were recognized for having reached milestone volunteer hours during 2022.

Cumulative Hour Award Recipients 2022

❖ 50 Career Hours	Peggy Cantrell, Dave Cook, Todd Markwalter, Jeff Miller, Richard Ramsey
❖ 100 Career Hours	Ed Brading, Jeff Hatling, Carrie Hovey, Pat Kenney, Yong Li, Tom Sahlin, Denny Samuel
❖ 250 Career Hours	Dick Martindale, Jake Mitchell
❖ 500 Career Hours	Renée Messina, Ed Speer
❖ 1500 Career Hours	Tony Messina
❖ 2000 Career Hours	John Beaudet, Dan Firth, Vic Hasler, Kevin Sedgwick
❖ 4000 Career Hours	Joe Morris
❖ 6000 Career Hours	Tim Stewart
❖ 19,000 Career Hours	Carl Fritz

It takes a lot of work to maintain 134 miles of the A.T. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who signed up to maintain a section of our trail in 2023, with a special shout-out to our newest section maintainers, Dave Cook, Scott Huskey and Jim McGuire.

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Annual Maintainer's Dinner, Friday, February 24, 2023 (cont'd)



Attending the meeting were: Daryl Anderson, Juana Anderson, Dean Baird, Jennifer Baird, John Beaudet, Carl Belcher, Paul Benfield, Bettye Boone, Ed Brading, Aaron Brown, Phyllis Cairnes, Richard Carter, Brandon Church, Rebecca Church, Dave Cook, Robin Dean, Jasper Duncan, Dan Firth, Jim Foster, Saylor Fox, Carl Fritz, Craig Haire, Vic Hasler, Carrie Hovey, Van Hovey, Aaron Huskey, Kathy Huskey, Scott Huskey, Alex Johnston, Ender Johnston, Xander Johnston, Megan Krager, Greg Kramer, Elzear Lemieux, Emily Lemieux, Yong Li, Rick Lott, Ted Malone, Todd Markwalter, Renée Messina, Tony Messina, Wes Miller, Lori Mirrer, Jake Mitchell, Joe Morris, Bill Murdoch, Lotta Murray, Taylor Neigh, Terry Oldfield, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Dave Polon, Rich Ritter, Tom Sahlin, Eric Scott, Gerald Scott, Gloria Sedgwick, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, Rolla Wade, Mike Watts, Harold Wexler, Steve Wilson, Joel Zabel, Joy Zabel.

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: 1/5/2023

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 4b, Frst 1.5 miles north of TN 91

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed hiked 1.5 north of TN 91 and found no blowdowns. He spread a wheelbarrow of gravel at the first stile. He spread three loads between the entrance and the barn.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 1/11/2023

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborn Farm

People: Ed Speer

Summary: Ed spread 5 wheelbarrow loads of gravel on the trail near apple trees planted by Paul Benfield and Ted Mowery. He spread another load on the entrance ramp. He adjusted the second trail gate, but was unable to adjust the first trail gate (a future job for Carl and Ed).

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Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 2/2/2023

Purpose: Construct bridges

Location: Watauga Work Center

People: Tony Messina, Renee Messina, Bob Peoples, Joe Morris, Van Hovey, Dick Martindale, Greg Kramer, Scott Huskey, Kevin Sedgwick, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart

Summary: The crew built 15 bog bridges to be installed on Round Bald in the Roans. We greatly appreciate the USFS personnel at the Watauga Work Center for allowing us to work inside on a cold day. We were also joined by Natalia and Luke from USFS – ARD; they helped with the assembly of the bridges.



Reporting: Rich Ritter for JC Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: 2/4/2023

Purpose: Clear section of reported blowdowns and brush overhanging trail

Location: Section 18, First 2.5 miles from Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot gap

People: Alan Liggett, Pat Kenney, Lannie Treece, Jeff Merek, Ruthie Edwards, Roy Siegel, Dave Polon

Summary: Seven members of the Johnson City Old Timers Hiking Club left from Indian Grave Gap with handsaws and loppers. They spilt into three groups to handle different blowdowns caused by the latest wind storm. Two groups cleared the blowdowns and overhanging brush to Beauty Spot Gap. One individual hiked the entire section to switchbacks FS230 to make sure all was clear. The groups convened to hike back to Indian Grave Gap. The trail was clear as of 2/8/23.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 2/8/2023

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 4b, TN 91 to Locust Knob, just north of Double Springs Shelter

People: Ed Speer, Tom Sahlin

Summary: Ed and Tom hiked from TN 91 north to Locust Knob. They cleaned the trailbed, removed two blowdowns and inspected the shelter.

Reporting: Van Hovey

Date: 2/8/2023

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

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

People: Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey, Ken Murray

Summary: We removed two blowdowns, 14"+ and 28"+. The large one was somewhat problematic needing 5 cuts to make removal manageable. Van sawed with Ken as swamper. Ken did a little lopping on his way out. Carrie and Van cleaned a few water diversions on the way out. We met one day-hiker coming from Indian Grave Gap. He confirmed two smallish blowdowns between Indian Grave Gap and Curley Maple Gap Shelter as previously reported. From Curley Maple to Chestoa, trail is clear and in good condition.



Reporting: Tony Messina

Date: 2/8/2023

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 10, Hampton Blue Line to A.T. to Laurel Falls to High-Water Bypass

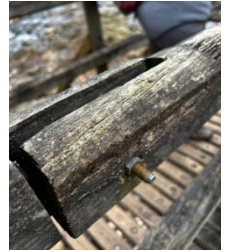
People: Tony and Renee Messina

Summary: Tom Sahlin recently reported several blowdowns in the Pond Mtn Wilderness near Laurel Falls; so Renee and I decided to break out the crosscut saw and take advantage of that certification. We crosscut a 12-inch and a 6-inch blowdown along the Hampton Blue Line trail and a 14-inch blowdown approximately 0.2 miles past the second bridge on the A.T. to Laurel Fork Falls. We hiked on to the falls which were running nicely and looped around on the high-water trail past the shelter and back to Hampton. We also cleared several old stumps sticking out into the trail using a Silky saw and the 4-ft titanium bar. We observed that the blazes are in bad shape on the A.T. and parts of the Blue Line and High-Water trails. More blazes are also needed near intersections with side trails/old roads. That might be an opportunity for Hiking with Tools this spring. The blazes are especially confusing near the shelter, and the marking of the water trail really should be moved. The metal sign is

damaged and seems to indicate taking the blue-blaze to the left down to the A.T. rather than to the right to the nearby stream. The new USFS signs are nice but have incorrect mileages shown.

The first bridge on the way in from Hampton has an issue with one of the handrails; it needs a washer added and to be tightened up (see pic) and might need a new bolt. The landscape timbers on both bridges are OK; perhaps some repair has been done in the past few months.

Some rehab will be in order soon near the big curve in the High-Water trail; it needs to be dug back into the hill. There is also a mud patch forming on the new short bypass between the two bridges. An 8-ft bog bridge would work there, or perhaps just place some stepping stones as has been done in other sections of the trail. The shelter is in need of a new notebook and a new broom. It also does not have a graffiti board.



Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 2/9/2023

Purpose: Construct and rehab bridges; Rehab USFS Sign

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US 321, Watauga Work Center

People: Bob Peoples, Richard Carter, Tony Messina, Renee Messina, Elzear Lemieux, John Cruz, Greg Kramer, Ted Mowery, Tim Stewart, Paul Benfield

Summary: The crew gathered at Watauga Work Center to complete the 8 remaining bog bridges needed at Round Bald. After that task was complete, the bridge at the tail end of the lake at Oliver Hollow

Road was rehabbed and handrails were installed on the bridge. Two USFS signs were stabilized with concrete to reinforce the posts along the Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail. A banner day and the weather - in a word - fantastic.



Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 2/9/2023

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

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

People: Joe Morris, Van Hovey

Summary: After getting materials to the crew at the Watauga Work Center for the remaining bog bridges, Van and I headed out to check the blazes from Shook Branch up to the cemetery adjacent to the Atwood property. Someone had refreshed the blazes on the remaining portion of locust(s) that TEHCC had installed, and the fence posts that Greg Kramer had installed. All seems to be peaceful at the moment. We then headed to Hughes Gap to remove three (3) blowdowns that Tom Sahlin had reported earlier in the week. The section is currently clear and in good shape.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 2/10/2023

Purpose: Check trail condition; clear blowdowns

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Michael Watts

Summary: I cleared small blowdowns and limbs from the A.T. and blue-blaze trail to the spring. One larger blowdown will require a return trip with a chainsaw.

Reporting: Van Hovey

Date: 2/11/2023

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

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

People: Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey

Summary: We removed two blowdowns previously reported within 1.5 miles south of Indian Grave Gap. We saw no hikers heading south, but there were several dayhikers heading toward Beauty Spot. It was a nice day for a walk.

Reporting: Vic.Hasler

Date: 2/13/2023

Purpose: TEHCC A.T. Committee Meeting

Location: Eastman Recreation Center

People: Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler, Greg Kramer, Renee Messina, Tony Messina, Joe Morris, Steve Perri, Tim Stewart, Steve Wilson

Summary: The first part of the meeting covered details for the upcoming Maintainers Kickoff dinner. The topics shifted to the 2023 work plan, Roan Highlands VUM, Volunteer Service Agreement, privies, bridge and hazard tree inspections, and issues for the Spring A.T. Partnership (March 21). The next committee meeting will be scheduled for mid-June.

Reporting: Dick Martindale

Date: 2/14/2023

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Road to Canute Place Full, round trip of section, 8.1 miles

People: Dick Martindale, Chuck Brown

Summary: We cleared dozens of blowdowns, the majority of which were relatively easy step-overs or walk-unders. Dick Martindale was the sawyer and Chuck Brown was the swamper. Chuck is a cook at a nearby resort and will not be able to be a regular trail maintainer.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 2/16/2023

Purpose: Construct bridge and stairs; rehab trail

Location: Section 12c, Campbell Hollow Road

People: Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Joe Morris, Elzear Lemieux, Van Hovey, Dan Firth, Greg Kramer, Carl Fritz, Kevin Sedgwick, Tony Messina, Scott Huskey, Tim Stewart

Summary: The Regular Thursday Crew split into three teams: 6 Locust stairs were installed at Campbell Hollow Road, 52 feet of trail was rehabbed, and "substantial" stringer logs were harvested and debarked. The three log-stack dead man sill was also constructed in preparation to replace a failing backcountry bridge.

Reporting: Joel Zabel

Date: 2/18/2023

Purpose: Hike, but became maintenance

Location: Section 20b, Nolichucky River to Spivey Gap

People: Yong Li, Ed Brading, Adam Bean, Joel Zabel

Summary: Over 20 blowdowns were found, mainly between Temple Hill Gap and Spivey Gap. We cleared most of them with handsaws. The largest cut was ~14" diameter, though we muscled an 18-inch, 10-foot long broken trunk off the trail without cutting. We left one 20"+ diameter that requires multiple cuts. It is 0.4 miles south of No Business Knob Shelter. We left two areas near each other between 0.9 and 1.0 mile south of Spivey gap, a 16" diameter and less, many cuts required.

Reporting: Jim McGuire

Date: 2/19/2023

Purpose: General Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 15c, Ash Gap to Hughes Gap

People: Jim McGuire

Summary: It was a beautiful to be on the A.T. I collected one full grocery bag of trash. Most of the trash was at Ash Gap. I worked on two water sources. The first one was barely dripping water. I raked a lot of leaves and sticks out of the way and repositioned the pipe resulting in a very good flow of water. I didn't have as much luck at the second water source at Ash Gap. I raked leaves and sticks out of the way and moved some rocks around. There is plenty of water flow, but I struggled to get rocks positioned to provide an easy way to get to the water. I looked for a pipe and did not find one. I'll take a pipe the next time I go to Ash Gap. I cleared a couple blowdowns. Two blowdowns were too big for this novice trail maintainer to tackle solo. I encountered 3 hikers on my return to Hughes Gap: a day hiker, a NoBo thru-hiker, and Mike Watts. How lucky was that! I introduced myself and we talked about the blowdowns. Mike thinks that he and Rick Lott might be able to clear these soon. I really appreciate that Mike, thanks! I plan to make another run up to Ash Gap in early April.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 2/19/2023

Purpose: Section Maintenance

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

People: Dan Firth, Michaela Hofbauer

Summary: We cleared 8 blowdowns, including one small hemlock top blocking the trail resulting in hikers walking around. Several others were difficult to pass. There are two remaining large step-over blowdowns that were not cut. We rehabbed 6 feet of trail where a blowdown had damaged the critical edge. We cleaned water diversions and replaced one that had rotted out.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 2/20/2023

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 20b, Devils Creek Gap to Spivey Gap

People: Ken Murray, Lotta Murray

Summary: We received a report of several blowdowns on our section. We removed two large oak blowdowns and a large rotten log that was blocking water from crossing the trail. This part of our section is clear.

Reporting: Ken and Lotta Murray

Date: 2/22/2023

Purpose: Clear blowdown

Location: Section 20c, No Business Knob Shelter to Spivey Gap, Can lot to shelter and beyond

People: Ken Murray, Lotta Murray

Summary: We cut a large blowdown 0.4 miles north of the shelter. We also trimmed back lots of rhododendron and overhanging brush, and cleaned all steps and water crossings. We brought a new logbook and cleaned up the shelter. There is still a sign at the shelter that it is closed due to bear activity. This is from October??? When will they lift it?

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 2/22/2023

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 13, US 19E to south of Doll Flats

People: Jim Brooks, Rick Lott, Mike Watts

Summary: It was a beautiful February day; a couple of hikers were out. We cleared two large blowdowns; one between 19E and Doll Flats and the other between Doll Flats and Hump. We also cleared two smaller blowdowns, trimmed rhododendrons and other brush, and picked up trash.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 2/23/2023

Purpose: Construct bridge; Rehab trail

Location: Section 12c, Campbell Hollow

People: Joe Morris, Van Hovey, Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Elzear Lemieux, Tim Stewart

Summary: The Regular Thursday Crew split into two teams. Group one finished the 44-foot long backcountry bridge near Campbell Hollow (see pic). They also installed a 12-foot waterbar, rehabbed 18 feet of trail and put a handrail on another foot bridge.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 2/23/2023

Purpose: Rehab trail and construct steps

Location: Section 12d, Campbell Hollow

People: Kevin Sedgwick, Richard Carter, Tony Messina, Scott Huskey

Summary: Group two of the Regular Thursday Crew installed 8 locust steps with fill, rehabbing 30 total feet of trail.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 2/24/2023

Purpose: Roan VUM - Round Bald site visit

Location: Section 14d, Round Bald

People: Tim Stewart, Jan Edwards, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris

Summary: We invited Jan Edwards (retired Forest Service Engineer - Cherokee) to Round Bald for insight concerning the possible Spur Trail. Natalia Muglia (Pisgah USFS) also joined us. Of course, it was windy and cold. We hiked to Round Bald discussing current conditions and possible relocation of the trail around Round to include the spur trail. A sustainable spur trail in the grassy, fragile area is key to success. Reducing foot traffic is also paramount which might be accomplished with the relo/loop and spur trail system.

