



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

June 2023

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

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

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*Northern View from Canebrake Mountain Overlook  
Photo taken by Josh Hayes*

## Letter from the Chair

*Submitted by Josh Hayes (2023 Steering Committee Chair)*

Hello friends,

We have had some great hikes so far this year and I look forward to more in the coming months! As the year progresses and summer edges ever closer, it is important to remember to prepare for outside activities. Many families do outside activities and will gather things like sunblock, snacks, etc., but proper preparation can involve a lot more. This month we will discuss one of the seven principles of Leave No Trace called **Plan Ahead and Prepare**.

Every good plan starts with identifying expectations and evaluating what is needed to make it happen. When hiking, your evaluation needs to include skill level, knowledge of the area, equipment needed, and expected weather, to list a few. Understanding your skill level and the skill level required for the hike can help you plan the proper route, whereas collecting knowledge of the area may be important if you need to get permission from a land manager or need to be aware of where land boundaries are located. Evaluating the area and expected weather will help inform you of the equipment you need to reach your expectations. After every hike, it is a useful tool to look back and see what you can do next time to be better prepared.

Proper planning can help you avoid injuries and disaster or, at the very least, it can help you respond when something does happen. Preparation can help us uphold all of the seven principles, such as disposing of waste properly by bringing your own garbage bags, or by putting food in resealable containers instead of bringing it in the first place in its disposable wrappings. From a safety point of view, there is a saying that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Thanks all,

Josh

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## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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For the latest, up-to-date information, see [tehcc.org/schedule](http://tehcc.org/schedule).

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

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
June 1	Paddle to the Grill – First of the Season! 6 pm – 9:30 pm	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
June 3	Paddle the Lower Watauga, Class I-II – First of the Season! 3 pm	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
June 3	Hiking with Tools! on National Trails Day, 9:30 am – 2 pm, <b>*Date change*</b>	<a href="#">Tim Stewart</a>	
June 10	APEs Noli River Cleanup, Blue Ridge Paddling, Erwin, 10 am	<a href="#">Andy Steffan</a>	919-928-4738
June 15	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1 pm	<a href="#">Josh Hayes</a>	270-585-5929
June 17	Rich Mountain Fire Tower Lookout	<a href="#">Josh Hayes</a>	270-585-5929
June 17	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9 am – 2 pm	<a href="#">Tony Messina</a>	423-677-6650
June 25	Rock Creek Falls Trail, 9:30 am	<a href="#">Rheagan Sizemore</a>	937-779-2998
July 8	Hiking with Tools!, Shady Valley, TN, 9:30 am – 2 pm	<a href="#">Tim Stewart</a>	
July 15	Bays Mountain Park Maintenance, 9 am – 2 pm	<a href="#">Tony Messina</a>	423-677-6650
July 20	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1 pm	<a href="#">Josh Hayes</a>	270-585-5929
July 20	Fun Fest Moonlight Hike, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm	<a href="#">Rheagan Sizemore</a>	937-779-2998

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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: [Josh Hayes](#)

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](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.

#### **Hiking with Tools! Usually the 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 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.

#### **Paddle to the Grill, Thursday Evenings During the Summer, 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm**

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

Each week we paddle from Winged Deer Park to Sonny's Marina & Restaurant. Bring your touring kayak/canoe/SUP to meet with The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts ([www.riverapes.org](http://www.riverapes.org)) and TEHCC ([www.tehcc.org](http://www.tehcc.org)). We will launch within 30 minutes of the meeting time to paddle 2 miles to the restaurant. After we eat, we'll paddle back under the stars! As we may be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat and a head light for when we land. PFD's and stern lights are TWRA Regulation. If you aren't on the contact list, contact Deb each week for details.

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## **Lower Watauga, Class I-II, Alternate Saturdays, Beginning June 3, 2023, 3 pm**

Contact: [Debbie Briscoe](mailto:Debbie.Briscoe@watauga.org), 423-534-3636

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

Directions: From W Elk Ave in Elizabethton turn at the MISO Teriyaki 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>

## **Bays Mountain Park Trail Maintenance, Third Saturday of Each Month, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Contact: [Tony Messing](mailto:Tony.Messing@baysmountainpark.org), 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! on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 3, 2023, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm \*Date change\***

Contact: [Tim Stewart](mailto:Tim.Stewart@roanmountain.org)

Location: Roan Mountain, TN

June is here, but instead of the normal second Saturday, we will meet on the first Saturday of the month. Lopping of rhododendrons will be the primary task near Roan Mountain, TN. The meeting place will be at [Roan Mountain Community Park - 146 Carter St. Roan Mountain, TN 37687](https://www.roanmountain.org/visiting/roan-mountain-community-park), in front of the stage and not the ballpark. We'll meet at 9:30 and then carpool/caravan to Walnut Mountain Road or Bitter End.

**As a reminder, some items to bring in a day pack:**

- Work gloves, hard hat if you have one (otherwise provided)
- Plenty of drinking water (it is almost summer)
- Lunch
- Appropriate cold weather/rain gear. If the weather changes, we may have to cancel.

Please let me know if you plan to attend so that I can bring enough tools.

See you this Saturday,

Tim

### **Rich Mountain Fire Tower Lookout, Saturday, June 17, 2023, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Leader: [Josh Hayes](mailto:Josh.Hayes@richmountain.org), 270-585-5929

Rating: Upper Moderate, ~5 mi.

Location: [Appalachian Trail Trailhead Parking](https://www.appalachiantrail.org/visiting/appalachian-trail-trailhead-parking), Madison, NC 28743

**\*Weather Permitting\***

We will meet at the trailhead in the parking lot and hike up the A.T. to an offshoot trail blazed double-blue that will go up to the fire tower.

*Recommended equipment: Water, snacks, and a walking stick. Dogs are allowed if on a leash.*

The hike begins with a moderate climb on the white-blazed Appalachian Trail. Hikers will find themselves walking through rhododendron tunnels and scenic forest slopes. The trail crosses several small streams as the path snakes up Rich Mountain. The trail varies in steepness, but allows many flat sections for hikers to recover. Roots and rocky sections are scattered throughout this section of the Appalachian Trail, so please take caution when traversing this hike. Hiking sticks are recommended. The trail slowly climbs for nearly 2.5 miles until finally reaching an intersection with a blue-blazed trail. Follow the blue-blazed trail for several hundred feet where the trail opens up and reaches the stunning Rich Mountain Fire Tower. At this point hikers have climbed nearly 1,430 feet! The fire tower stands 31 feet tall and is open to the public. Take caution when climbing the fire tower stairs and enjoy the breathtaking views of the Appalachian Mountains from the top.

The views from atop the fire tower are stunning no matter what time of year. We'll be sure to drink some water, have a snack, and take in the views before returning on the same trail.

***There are no waste bins or bathrooms at the fire tower, so please prepare accordingly and do not leave any litter at the fire tower or on the trail.***

## **Rock Creek Falls Trail, Sunday, June 25, 2023, 9:30 am**

**Leader:** [Rheagan Sizemore](#), 937-779-2998

**Rating:** *Moderate, 4.9 miles out-and-back*

**Location:** *Rock Creek Recreation Area, Erwin, TN 37650*

Join us on a Sunday morning for this 4.9-mile out-and-back trail near Erwin, Tennessee in the Unaka Mountain Wilderness. Generally considered a moderately challenging route with 1,154 ft of elevation gain, it takes an average of 2 h 37 min to complete. This route offers a steady incline over a trail that is 95% rocks and roots. There are four water crossings on the way up. Please dress accordingly. Trail concludes at the waterfall. The trailhead is near the campsite, and we will make sure to pay the \$2.00 day fee which is based on the honor system. Rattlesnake Ridge trail also leaves from this recreation area if the group wants to extend the hike. Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash. Recommended to dress accordingly and bring plenty of water & snacks.

## **Hiking with Tools!, Saturday, July 8, 2023, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm**

**Contact:** *Tim Stewart*

**Location:** *Shady Valley, TN*

This event is an introductory opportunity by helping out with routine maintenance for the Appalachian Trail, such as clearing small fallen trees, cutting back overgrown vegetation, and repainting trail markers (a.k.a blazes) keeps the Appalachian Trail alive. All tools will be furnished, and no prior experience required; hands-on training will be provided! Please be sure to wear long pants and sturdy boots. Bring plenty of water and snacks for the day, lunch, sunscreen, bug spray, a rain jacket and personal work gloves, as well as a mask and hand sanitizer!

## **Fun Fest Moonlight Hike, Thursday, July 20, 2023, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

**Leader:** [Rheagan Sizemore](#), 937-779-2998

**Rating:** *Easy*

**Location:** *Bays Mountain Park, 853 Bays Mountain Park Road, Kingsport, TN 37660*

We need 14 volunteers for this annual club-led hike on the Lakeside Trail at Bays Mountain Park. Volunteers will be expected to stand post at different spur trails to keep the attendees on the correct path. This is a great opportunity to help out the club and experience a beautiful, local trail at night!

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## **Vic Hasler, 2022 Stan Murray Award Winner**

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*Submitted by Steve Perri and Carl Fritz*

Vic Hasler has a long history of volunteer contributions with TEHCC. His leadership and commitment to the club are outstanding. He started on the recreation side of the club, leading hikes and taking a couple of rotations through the Steering Committee, including the Chair role (and continues to advise the Steering Committee). In 2014, he switched to A.T. trail maintenance adopting the



*Vic Hasler being presented the  
TEHCC Stan Murray Award.  
l to r: Vic Hasler, Andy Steffan, and Carl Fritz*

Chestoa to Curley Maple Gap section, and later in 2021 moving to Temple Hill Gap to No Business Knob. As a volunteer, he has contributed over 2,100 hours, a large number for having a full-time day job and also volunteering with BSA Troop 48 and First Baptist Kingsport. Vic has taken on other club leadership roles as 2016 A.T. Trail Guidebook editor for TN-NC, ATC Alternate Regional Partnership Representative, and as the TEHCC A.T. Committee Chair since 2014. The time and commitment in these roles is incredible, considering the attention to detail he brings communicating internally and externally in these different capacities. Much of his non-employee time is devoted to either working on the trail or in some administrative capacity engaging with outside partners.

Vic has done an outstanding job in managing many different roles and activities. As an engineer, he brings his coordination and planning skills to the roles of guidebook editor and A.T. Committee Chair. TEHCC frequently engages with the USFS and ATC, and Vic is often the point person, representing the club with both personal contact as well as communications in writing. He brings passion to his role in many of his administrative responsibilities. The A.T. Committee Chair position is both demanding and critical, and we are fortunate to have someone as committed as Vic for eight years.

Vic is now providing leadership in a collaborative project with SAHC, ATC, and the USFS to develop a Visitor Use Management Plan that addresses visitor impacts along the A.T. in the Roan Highlands. While it has taken more than two years to bring attention to this matter, his persistence has paid off in getting this underway. Hopefully the project will bring new ideas and attention to address the complexities of the balds, and provide sustainable options to mitigate the long term effects of increasing visitor use.

The Stan Murray Award is for particularly meritorious service, and the TEHCC Steering Committee unanimously recognized Vic Hasler as the recipient for 2022.

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## 2023 SORO Partner of the Year – Scotty Bowman

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*Submitted by Vic Hasler (A.T. Committee Chair)*



At the Spring meeting of the Southern Region A.T. clubs, TEHCC's nomination, Scotty Bowman, was selected as the 2023 Partner of the Year. Scotty is the Senior Wilderness Specialist and Lead Trainer for the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS). The organization was formed in November 2010 to be dedicated to using primitive methods and tools for maintenance activities in federally designated wilderness areas. SAWS adopted 11.5 miles from Iron Mtn Shelter to Wilbur Dam Road, which passes through the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness Area. Besides hand tool restrictions, this trail section also has limited access, generally from either end, thus typically requires an overnight stay to complete routine maintenance tasks (or an occasional ten-mile in/out hike).

Scotty made a career shift from chef to the outdoors, where the call has remained to serve the wilderness. In a typical trail maintenance report, he has removed multiple blowdowns, sometimes in pieces using a hand saw, axe, and a little muscle to safely clear the A.T. path. His other favorite tool is the swing blade, to cut back the growth of blackberries and briars. He works both in Big Laurel Branch and Pond Mountain Wilderness areas keeping with the SAWS mission. Scotty has contributed 1326 hours to the Appalachian Trail per TEHCC maintenance reports.

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## A.T. Vista: August 4 – 7, 2023

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



The A.T. Vista program ([atvista2023.org](http://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. Over 150 Early Bird tickets were purchased with at least 60 registering for hikes. Regular admission now available is \$125 for adults (for all workshops and hikes plus opening and closing dinners), \$50 for youth (ages 12 & under), and \$60 for a Day Pass (for all workshops and hikes on choice of Saturday or Sunday). Excursions (including biking, caving, guided fishing, hiking with llamas, kayaking, and rafting) have already been published on-line for registering directly with the outfitters. Once a ticket is purchased, an email link is sent for selection of hikes. Workshops will be at the ETSU student center and will not require specific registration. Roughly 50 hikes have been planned for the A.T. and other area trails. TEHCC is still seeking a few experienced hike leaders (which does not require a ticket) to cover several openings. Please contact either Vic or Steve, if interested.

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## TEHCC Welcomes New Member

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John Meyer

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## For the Record

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### TEHCC-KKB Day at George Washington Elementary School, May 6, 2023

*Andy Steffan reporting*



The weather turned out perfect for the event! The previous evening crew (which Steering Committee member Eric Dobbs attended) gave us a great starting point for our day. They had finished moving and grading the dirt, plus even planted one section of plants. Our job was to finish the planting and continue placing the sun dial numbers. Andy and Jackie Steffan were the only club members to attend on Saturday's event, but fortunately, we had help from several other Eastman employees and local neighbors. It was a great family atmosphere with many kids running around and helping plant. Andy and Jackie helped lay out all the plants in their appropriate locations (putting our own design touch on it!) and then helped plant afterwards. We ended up finishing an hour early due to all the helping hands. The finished product looked beautiful and we can't wait to see how the garden grows over the years! We may have even inspired one of the volunteers to join the club!

### Canebrake Mountain Overlook Hike Report, May 13, 2023

*Josh Hayes reporting*

Due to the threat of rain, we had a limited number of participants. We waited at the trail head until 10:10, and then decided to go ahead and start the hike. The canebrake trail was well maintained but was very steep. The overlook was decent, and several impressive houses were seen from it. Once we descended, we caught our second wind, and everyone decided to hike to the falls. It was a level hike to the first falls, however we went to the very end of the trail and never saw the second falls. Apparently, the second falls is not active due to the lack of rain. All in all, we hiked 6.8 miles, which was about 5 miles more than I had planned; but it was a great way to spend the afternoon! As far as wildlife goes, there were three different species of millipede and centipede on the trail and a few toads.

Attendees were Josh Hayes, Mark Limke, along with Josh and Mackenzie Clemens and their two dogs!



### Carver's Gap to Roan High Knob, May 20, 2023

*Rheagan Sizemore reporting*



We started the hike on a chilly, foggy morning promptly at 9:30 am with a group of 7. The beginning of the trail was a bit confusing, so we took two short detours to ensure we were on the right track. Aside from the detours, the trail was very well-maintained and easy to follow. Moderate was an accurate rating for the elevation gain on the hike, peaking at around 1.5 miles in. We visited the highest elevation shelter on the A.T. and the landmark plus some ruins of the historic Cloudland Hotel briefly. Then we continued to the overlook at high knob. The overlook was small, and the fog was opaque when we first arrived at our destination. However, the fog cleared up before our eyes and we were rewarded with a decent

mountain view before heading back to the trailhead. Due to the threat of rain when we returned to the parking area, no one extended the hike to the other side of Carver's Gap. The group got an even 5 miles in with our detours, only about 0.5 mile more than expected. Overall, it was a great morning hike considering how bad the weather was expected to be earlier in the week!

Attendees were Rheagan Sizemore, Josh Hayes, Joe Dougherty, Erin Ekart, Drew Thomas, Razvan Marinescu and his sister Andrea!





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## A.T. Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/11, 4/12, and 4/13/2023

**Purpose:** Rehab trail and remove blowdown

**Location:** Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter, reaching crest of Iron Mountain

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed removed a 10-inch blowdown as the trail reaches the crest of Iron Mountain and built two short sections of stone cribbing near there. The next day, he installed lath on turnpike he recently built. He constructed three short sections of stone cribbing and one of wood and stone about 1.25 miles from TN 91. He flagged about a dozen locust trees near the crest of Iron Mountain plus another dozen along the last 1/4 mile before the trail reaches the crest of Iron Mountain. On 4/13, Ed carried a 12 foot locust to near the crest of Iron Mountain and made a short section of cribbing.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/13 and 4/14/2023

**Purpose:** Remove blowdown

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

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Based on a note put on his car by a hiker, Ed hiked 2.5 miles north of TN 91 to find a forked white oak treetop in the trail. He removed many limbs and left the larger fork as a stepover. The next day, Ed removed the rest of the limbs on the white oak treetop and cut off the larger fork lying across the trail.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/18/2023

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

**Location:** Sections 4a and 4b, US 421 to TN 91

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** As Ed hiked from TN 91 to US 421, he cleaned limbs and stones from the trailbed. He removed a 6-inch blowdown about a mile north of Double Springs Shelter. Tom Sahlin joined him about a mile from Low Gap. A 90-foot hickory had fallen a half-mile south of Low Gap. More than 40 feet of the tree was on the A.T. They removed limbs from the hickory, thus allowing hikers to continue their parallel route beside the A.T.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/21/2023

**Purpose:** Remove blowdown

**Location:** Section 2b, McQueen's Gap to 4 miles North

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed hiked McQueen's Gap to 4 miles north and back. Carl had asked him to check on a reported blowdown. He removed a 12-inch maple treetop that blocked the trail 2.3 miles north of McQueens Gap. He also removed a 6-inch dead hemlock 2.6 miles north, and removed the top of a dead tree that had fallen nearly 3 miles north. He cut limbs, 6" and two 8", and the main bole (10") of that tree. The sections rehabbed one year ago by the Thursday Crew are still good.

**Reporting:** Rebekah Morrisson

**Date:** 4/24 to 4/27/2023

**Purpose:** SAWS did a Crew Leader Training Hitch from 4/24 - 4/27 to log out as much as we could

**Location:** Sections 5 and 6, Iron Mountain Shelter to 4 miles south, and hike out to TN 91

**People:** Rebekah Morrisson, Tyler Mujica, Lindsey Lytle, Michael Lowry, Erin Martin, Eric Giebelstein

**Summary:** The SAWS crew hiked out from Cross Mtn Rd to Iron Mtn Shelter on 4/24 and set up camp. We worked 4/25 and 4/26 towards Vandeventer Shelter and got as far as about 4 miles south of Iron Mtn. We cleared 62 blowdowns and did 970 feet of brushing. There is likely still work towards Vandeventer and between Vandeventer and Wilbur Dam. On the hike out on 4/27, the crew cut out 5 blowdowns blocking the trail. There is still a large hardwood no more than 2 miles in from the Cross Mtn Rd trailhead which was going to take too much time to address. It's maybe 20 inches in diameter and broke off mid trunk, but is still attached by fibers. (See photos, next page.)



**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/26/2023

**Purpose:** Remove blowdown

**Location:** Sections 3 and 4a, North end of Section 4a and south end of Section 3

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed removed a 40-foot section of a 90 foot hickory tree that had fallen in the trail in the northern part of Section 4a. He made four cuts with an axe and handsaw. A NOBO (Aaron) assisted. Ed then hiked from Low Gap to McQueen's Knob and found no blowdowns.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/27/2023

**Purpose:** Inspect trail

**Location:** Sections 1 and 2a, McQueen's Gap to VA/TN line and down Backbone Rock Trail

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed counted ten blowdowns on the A.T. and five on Backbone Rock Trail. He measured more than 1100 feet of the A.T. needing rehab between five miles north of McQueen's Gap and the VA/TN line.

**Reporting:** Dean Baird

**Date:** 4/27/2023

**Purpose:** Remove blowdown

**Location:** Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats, Before entering Pond Mountain Wilderness

**People:** Dean Baird

**Summary:** I removed a knee-to-waist- high white pine that was across the trail before entering Pond Mountain Wilderness. I saw 6 hikers and received reports of the trail being clear to Dennis Cove with the exception of the leaning snag, located approximately 1/2 way up North Pond, that we were unable to remove last week.

**Reporting:** Dean Baird

**Date:** 4/27/2023

**Purpose:** Secure signposts

**Location:** Section 9b, Pond Flats to Hampton trailhead, Hampton Blue Blaze Trail

**People:** Dean Baird

**Summary:** I removed the Pond Mountain Wilderness sign, the post, and the rocks that had been wedged to stabilize the post. I enlarged the hole, then replaced the sign and post and used concrete to secure it in place. The USFS-placed mileage sign at the top of the "stairs" that go down to the creek, was still looser than I wanted it to be, so I removed the rocks at the base and reinforced it with concrete. I trimmed multiflora rose that was growing over the trail under the power lines and removed a small bag of trash from the parking lot. I met a thru-hiker who was going into Hampton.

**Reporting:** Greg Kramer

**Date:** 4/27/2023

**Purpose:** Build picnic table

**Location:** Ken Murray's House

**People:** Greg Kramer, Ken Murray

**Summary:** We built the picnic table for Curley Maple Shelter. The ends are put together and all the other parts will be assembled on site. (See photo of finished product below, Maintenance Report for 5/2/2023.)

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/27/2023

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

**Location:** Section 15a, Roan High Knob Shelter

**People:** Carl Fritz, Van Hovey, Elzear Lemieux, Bill Murdoch, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** Two large spruce trees beside the shelter were getting in bad shape with splits running vertical. One-eight inch limb had almost completely broken off and was hanging over the roof. We successfully roped the large limb in two places and used the Maasdam rope puller to pull it down. The worst tree that was leaning towards the shelter, we again used the Maasdam rope puller to insure it did not hit the shelter. The hinge wood was rotten, but the tree fell exactly where planned. The other tree was easier to direct away from the shelter after removing the large limb. Rain set in at noon, so we did not get to scout some potential trails at Carver's Gap.

**Reporting:** Aaron Brown

**Date:** 4/29/2023

**Purpose:** General Maintenance

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

**People:** Aaron Brown

**Summary:** The main purpose of this trip was to survey this section for needed treadway improvements. The entire section was walked and a report was created to document areas where these improvements are needed. Two locations stood out as the most acute needs at 349.6 and 349.4. A report was prepared and sent to Joe Morris, Greg Kramer, and Carl Fritz. Additionally, encroaching rhododendron were trimmed at several locations, and empty gallon jugs that appear to have been a water cache were removed.

**Reporting:** Greg Kramer

**Date:** 4/29/2023

**Purpose:** Garlic Mustard Pull

**Location:** Section 20c, No Business Knob Shelter to Spivey Gap, Devils Gap

**People:** Greg Kramer, Vic Hasler, Dan Firth

**Summary:** We met Matt Drury and Don White at Devils Gap to pull Garlic Mustard. The day was cool and partly cloudy, so good weather for picking garlic mustard. We have been going to Devils Gap for 5 years or so. We have made great inroads in the garlic mustard. I don't have our poundage, but it was less than 50 lbs. This is a huge reduction from previous years. We also saw a wide variety of wild flowers. Our newest member to the crew is Don White, she is Matt's new employee for invasive species eradication in the Southern Section of the A.T.

**Reporting:** Van Hovey

**Date:** 4/29/2023

**Purpose:** Clear reported blowdown

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS230 switchback

**People:** Van Hovey

**Summary:** I was informed of a blowdown approximately one mile south of Iron Mtn Gap. It was a relatively small tree with branches intact across the trail forcing hikers to go slightly off trail to pass. I was able to clear the impasse with a Katanaboy saw .

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 4/29/2023

**Purpose:** Spring maintenance

**Location:** Section 3, US 421 to ¼ mile north of spring (southern portion of section)

**People:** Steve Perri

**Summary:** I walked in and out from Low Gap at US 421 to paint blazes and cut briars. Water diversions were fairly clean and working based on the previous night's rain. I painted blazes in both directions to a point about 1/4 mile north of the spring. The spring was flowing well. Waterbars were clear. Some could use the clean out at the downhill side, especially the ones north of the spring. I cut briars and some branches with loppers on the return trip to Low Gap. When I got to the parking area, a chainsaw crew, Miller Tree Service, was thinning trees down the hill on the Shady Valley side looking north.

**Reporting:** Elzear and Emily Lemieux

**Date:** 4/30/2023

**Purpose:** A.T. Maintenance

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

**People:** Elzear Lemieux, Emily Lemieux

**Summary:** We trimmed back vegetation and cleaned out water diversions. We found a blowdown and removed a portion with a Big Boy saw to allow hikers to bypass. We will need to remove the remainder later (1.7 miles north of US 321). We also removed a 6" blowdown and repaired a hole in the trail caused by the root ball.

**Reporting:** Van Hovey

**Date:** 5/1/2023

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS230 switchback

**People:** Van Hovey, Carrie Hovey

**Summary:** We cut two blowdowns, one at FS Switchback 230 (mile 357) and one just south of Cherry Gap Shelter (mile 361). It was very short work to cut the two 10" blowdowns. We spent more time getting to them than doing the actual work. It was a breezy day.

**Reporting:** Elzear J Lemieux

**Date:** 5/2/2023

**Purpose:** A.T. Maintenance

**Location:** Section 8, 1.7 miles north of TN 321

**People:** Elzear Lemieux, Carl Fritz, Bill Murdoch

**Summary:** We removed a large blowdown 1.7 miles north of Hwy 321. We also inspected some previous water diversion work, and assessed an area of the trail that is covered in water due to higher than normal lake levels.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/2/2023

**Purpose:** Install picnic table

**Location:** Section 20c, Can Lot to No Business Knob Shelter

**People:** John Beaudet, Carl Fritz, Van Hovey, Elzear Lemieux, Bill Murdoch, Lotta Murray, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We started early at Can Lot to get to No Business Knob Shelter and cut out a path to the access road for the rest of the crew. The timing was great to meet the other crew arriving at the end of the road. After building the picnic table and cutting the hazard tree, we hiked back out and cleared many dead or sagging rhodos and trees that would be future problems. It was a very successful day.

**Reporting:** Greg Kramer

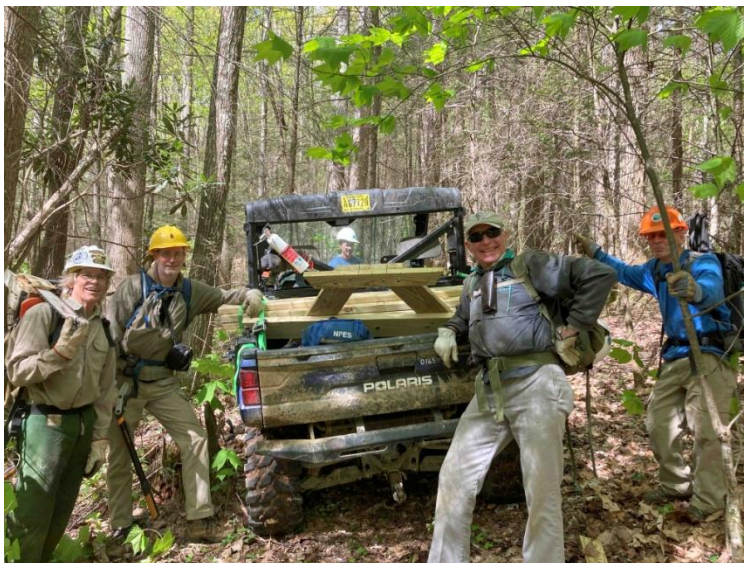
**Date:** 5/2/2023

**Purpose:** Deliver Picnic Table to No Business Shelter

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

**People:** Greg Kramer, Ken Murray

**Summary:** Brandon Church and Taylor brought in UTVs to haul the picnic shelter pieces to the A.T. We had a harrowing trip up the FS road but actually got to the A.T. It was short walk in. The other crew walking in from Can Lot (see report above) came in just before us. We assembled the picnic table in about an hour. We hauled out the old picnic table. There was a hazard tree near the shelter that we decided to remove, Brandon dropped it where he wanted to and we packed up and left.



*Picnic table shuttle crew*



*New picnic table at No Business Knob Shelter*

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/3/2023

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 1, Backbone Rock Trail

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed removed two dead oak blowdowns in the lower mile of trail and cleaned the trailbed for the first 1.5 miles.

**Reporting:** Tony Messina

**Date:** 5/3/2023

**Purpose:** Section Maintenance

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

**People:** Tony and Renee Messina

**Summary:** We patrolled our section on a beautiful, breezy Wednesday and searched for a reported blowdown near Bitter End. We also compiled an inventory of our bridges as recently requested by Carl. As requested by Tim Stewart, we refrained from lopping rhodos so that he will have opportunities for "Hiking with Tools!" in June. We took two cars and shuttled between the trailheads. Blowdown-wise, we cleared four significant blowdowns, all near Bitter End. These were no major trail obstructions, just nuisance navigation over/under/around. The largest was about 14-inches in diameter and all were spiny pine/hemlock softwoods. Renee refreshed blazes and noted some had to be "defaced" that had been "faced" (see pic). Someone has recently taken it upon themselves to add many blazes to our section (mostly in from the Bitter End side) using glossy enamel paint, and has greatly over-blazed sections of trail. Renee removed what she could, but the enamel is difficult. Blazing guidelines need to be reviewed at one of our future meetings. It was a gorgeous day, and the view from the chestnut bench near Scotty's Hostel was absolutely magnificent! (see pic). We noted that the new forest service sign at Bitter End has been removed or stolen. The post was moved across the road to the south side and plastered with shuttle/hostel ads. We removed and cached the post nearby. If a new sign is available we could install it easily.



**Reporting:** Dick Martindale

**Date:** 5/3/2023

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns and assess for future trail maintenance needs

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

**People:** Dick Martindale, Chuck Brown

**Summary:** Many blowdowns were removed, and an assessment was done for potential TEHCC trail maintenance activities. Two 30-foot sections within 1.5 miles from the Dennis Cove trailhead will eventually need approximately 30 feet of cribbing, and one area approximately 1/2 mile from the treadhead has "sunk," creating a 2' x 3' depression that was already temporarily filled with a log. None of these areas are critical at this time, though they should be addressed prior to the 2024 hiking season.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/4/2023

**Purpose:** Remove blowdown and rehab trail

**Location:** Section 1, TN/VA state line to Backbone Rock Trail and Backbone Rock Trail

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed cleared the upper mile of trailbed and removed two blowdowns on Backbone Rock Trail. A 15-inch blowdown remains. He cleaned the trailbed of Section 1. He removed a two-foot wide slab of wood and a 7-inch blowdown. A large dead tree standing beside the A.T. had fallen leaving a hole about two feet deep. He stacked stone in the hole and against the trailbed. He saw at least 30 NOBOs in five hours.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 5/4/2023

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 11b, Canute Place to Moreland Gap Shelter

**People:** Tim Stewart, Carl Fritz, Elzear Lemieux, Richard Carter

**Summary:** There was a report of blowdowns, so we went in from Tower Road to the Canute Place and hiked south to Moreland Gap Shelter. We removed 21 blowdowns. They were of various diameters, but a few were large enough to require a chainsaw. At the shelter, we removed some trash, emptied ash from the fire ring, and repainted half of the graffiti board (didn't have enough paint). We also placed a new shelter log. There were 7 hazard trees removed as well.

**Reporting:** Dan Firth

**Date:** 5/4/2023

**Purpose:** Pull garlic mustard

**Location:** Section 4a, US 421

**People:** Dan Firth and Greg Kramer

**Summary:** 84 pounds of garlic mustard was pulled trail west from Low Gap to the turn in US 421. This is a significant improvement over previous years and covers a longer section along the road.

**Reporting:** Dan Firth

**Date:** 5/4/2023

**Purpose:** Remove blowdown

**Location:** Section 5, TN 91 to 2.5 miles south

**People:** Dan Firth and Greg Kramer

**Summary:** We removed a blowdown that crossed the trail at head height.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/5/2023

**Purpose:** Inspect for blowdowns

**Location:** Sections 4a and 4b, TN 91 to Locust Knob on Section 4a

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed cleaned the trailbed north of Osborne Farm. He found no blowdowns from TN 91 to Locust Knob. He noted that the TEHCC distance sign at the entrance to Osborne Farm had been stolen. He drove to Low Gap (US 421) to confirm that the distance signs north and south still exist.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 5/5/2023

**Purpose:** Roan VUM, Scout possible new shelter sites and meet with USFS and OVNHT

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

**People:** Tim Stewart, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris

**Summary:** Jen Barnhart (Pisgah ARD Ranger) invited us to Overmountain Shelter for a visit with the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT) NPS personnel. The OVNHT is planning to create a trail along the route of the Overmountain Men. They were not scheduled to arrive until 12:30 so Carl and I took the opportunity to scout for some possible tent sites and/or new shelter locations in the morning.

We hiked from the Shelter to almost Bradley Gap. There are numerous possibilities for new tent sites. Water availability might be a limiting factor, however. In the woods, on Little Hump, in between the springs, is a large flat area that has been used as a horse camp (no recent evidence). It can accommodate many tents. Above the second spring, on the edge of the woods, is a possible location for a new shelter with great views of the TN landscape and Hump Mountain. The spring is easily accessible and materials could be brought in from Shell Creek. Otherwise it is not readily accessible to Trail Magic partiers. Depending on the resolution of The Barn, a new shelter here would also increase the distance from Stan Murray Shelter.

Back at the shelter we met Joe who had replaced the toilet seat on the privy. Jen and Natalia Muglia and the rest of the personnel arrived at approximately 1:00. After some discussions, we hiked North on the A.T. and enjoyed the views. It was a good day with good discussions. We also noticed some future trail maintenance opportunities.

**Reporting:** Michael Watts

**Date:** 5/5/2023

**Purpose:** General Maintenance

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

**People:** Rick Lott, Mike Watts

**Summary:** It was a beautiful day with a steady stream of thru-hikers. We did a lot of trimming of encroaching vegetation, cleared a small blowdown, removed a couple head knockers and knee knockers, and cleaned water diversions. Most of the trail is in good shape. In spots, we saw where the trail is beginning to slough off on the downhill side. The worst area, which needs some rehab, is at mile 393.9 (see pic).

**Reporting:** Tom Sahlin

**Date:** 5/6/2023

**Purpose:** Scout for blowdowns and remove what I can

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



**People:** Tom Sahlin

**Summary:** This was two trips with the first to Iron Mountain Gap heading north to the top of Iron Mountain to the pinnacle of rocks. I removed two blowdowns of about 6 inches as well as numerous small branches. The second trip was from Greasy Creek Gap south to the pinnacle of rocks. I found 5 blowdowns and removed 3 of them which were 3 to 6 inches. The other two I left for when I can bring an axe. One is a double of about 12 inches near the pinnacle of rocks. The other is about 12 inches about a half-mile from Greasy Creek Gap. Both are on the ground, which will require a shovel to keep the Katanaboy saw out of the dirt. I will return to remove these soon. One last improvement was a step that was caving in due to a broken locust log step. I added two stakes to hold it in place, which is temporary but will last until I can return to replace the locust step. Everything is okay for now. The blowdowns are just step-overs.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 5/6/2023

**Purpose:** Regular Maintenance

**Location:** Sections 2b and 3, McQueen's Gap to Abingdon Gap Shelter and northern portion of Section 3

**People:** Steve Perri

**Summary:** I hiked in from McQueen's Gap to finish the northern portion of the section not finished the week before. I blazed in both directions, lopped briars, and cleaned out water diversions which were in really good working order. After returning to McQueen's Gap, I hiked to Abingdon Gap Shelter and installed a mileage sign and the shelter information sign. Back at the gap, I rehung the bear warning sign from the USFS order. I saw only 4 thru-hikers. My trip up to the gap was delayed by the Bristol Forest Rally which was a forest event. There were 15-20 cars running in the event. I had to wait until all the running cars finished and the 2 broken down cars were towed out.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/10/2023

**Purpose:** Remove blowdown

**Location:** Section 1, Backbone Rock Trail

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed with axe and handsaws removed a dead 15-inch red oak blowdown 2/3 mile from Backbone Rock.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/11/2023

**Purpose:** Repair barbed wire fence

**Location:** Section 4b, TN 91, Osborne Farm

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed repaired cut and stretched barbed wire fence near the last stile as the trail enters the woods, and also a couple of other places around the north pasture from a recent locust log harvest.

**Reporting:** Greg Kramer

**Date:** 5/11/2023

**Purpose:** Rehab

**Location:** Section 19a, Between Curley Maple Gap Shelter and Martins Creek

**People:** Greg Kramer, Carl Fritz, Dan Firth, Richard Carter, Van Hovey, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Dick Martindale

**Summary:** We separated into three groups and rehabbed 350 feet of trail between Curley Maple Shelter and where Martins Creek crosses the A.T. There is more to do on Aaron Brown's and Van Hovey's sections (19a and 19b). We will return next week with a better idea of what tools to bring.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/12/2023

**Purpose:** Repair gate and search for blowdown

**Location:** Sections 4a and 4b, US 421 to 2 miles south, and Osborne Farm

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed readjusted the self-closing entrance gate to the accessible trail. He then hiked south from Low Gap about 2 miles searching for a reported blowdown. A NOBO assured him there were no blowdowns north of Double Springs Shelter.

**Reporting:** Dean Baird

**Date:** 5/12/2023

**Purpose:** Paint blazes and other trail maintenance

**Location:** Section 9b, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail

**People:** Jennifer Baird

**Summary:** Jennifer painted blazes on the Hampton Blue-Blaze trail and cut some encroaching vegetation. She saw 3 thru-hikers at the junction of HBB and A.T. There was a school bus that parked (somehow) at the trailhead and brought a large group of students who hiked to Laurel Fork Falls.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 5/13/2023

**Purpose:** Hiking with Tools!

**Location:** Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Yellow Mountain Gap, Little Hump

**People:** Tim Stewart, Nicole Perez, Austin Fink, Tasha Harrington, Lyndsey Lawson, Madeline Lawson, Rebecca Powell

**Summary:** Thunderstorms were threatening up until the last minute. I had thought about adjusting the adjusted location, but the forecast finally looked like the storms would wait until late afternoon. After meeting at Roan Mountain Community Park, we traveled to The Barn. We hiked north on the A.T. towards Little Hump. We cleaned water diversions and removed some root trip hazards. After lunch, some of the crew went on to Little Hump while some of us only made it to the edge of the woods before Little Hump. Everyone had the chance to enjoy the views, but those with shorter legs returned to The Barn and repainted blazes. The clouds continued to gather but we did not get rained on. Turned out to be a great day!

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/17/2023

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 2a, Backbone Rock Trail to A.T. and ½ mile south

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed hiked Backbone Rock Trail to the A.T. and south for 1/2 mile. He removed three blowdowns from the A.T. (a 12-inch red oak, an 8-inch sourwood, and a 12-inch hickory). A SOBO assured him that the A.T. from VA/TN line to Backbone Rock Trail was clear.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/17/2023

**Purpose:** Inspect complex and major bridges

**Location:** Section 10, 3 major bridges in Laurel Fork Gorge plus Bear Branch Bridge

**People:** Carl Fritz

**Summary:** A Region 8 FS Civil Engineer plus Taylor Neigh and Carl Fritz inspected the two large bridges plus Koonford Bridge in Laurel Fork Gorge and the Bear Branch Bridge. All the bridges need some minor repairs with Bear Branch Bridge needing the most work when we get a chance, but they are in good shape.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/18/2023

**Purpose:** Inspect trail and shelter

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

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed found no recent blowdowns on this section. He cleaned the trailbed in the woods north of Osborne Farm. He did minor work on the third stile and on Double Springs Shelter. Recently, water has been running beneath the sleeping platform. He notified Carl Fritz. He measured the distance from the shelter to the lower spring for a revised shelter sign. And he provided trail information to about a dozen NOBO hikers.

**Reporting:** Greg Kramer

**Date:** 5/18/2023

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

**Location:** Section 19a, Martins Creek to Curley Maple Gap Shelter

**People:** Greg Kramer, Carl Fritz, Tony Messina, Van Hovey, Dick Martindale, Tim Stewart, Kevin Sedgwick, Max Dallaba, Elzear Lemieux

**Summary:** We continued to work on rehabbing the trail from Martins Creek crossing the A.T. to Curley Maple Gap Shelter. We tackled some of the most difficult sections for rehab today. We only rehabbed 75 feet of trail, but it was a monumental effort.

**Reporting:** Jake Mitchell

**Date:** 5/20/2023

**Purpose:** Weed and mow

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

**People:** Jake Mitchell

**Summary:** My fellow trail bretheren,

I set out on my lonesome to care for the great path in the woods due to the help having other engagements. I arrived at the field at the height of the valley of the roaring creek without impedance to find many strange colored tents unlike the canvas for which I've grown accustomed. The great path was alive with the activity of those making the trek north for a short spell or those seeking the lands of the north. Reminded me of my travels to the western frontiers and the busy paths of Missourah. I set out along the great path for quite a distance until I reached the gap between the mountainous humps. The mechanical sickle was my companion upon my return as a made the path more pleasant on the westward side to honor the great state of Tennessee. Upon returning to the old red barn, hibernating walkers of the path obstructed the path of the mechanical mowing device, but did not prevent the completion

of the day's work. The heavens were nigh upon the hills most of the morn until the work was done and their rain was poured out as the sun waned. I beseech ye trail bretheren to seek out the great path for the many rains of the season have caused the plants to stretch out at a great rate.

Regards, Lt. Jake

PS - My esteemed officers leading the ragtag regiment of the trail bretheren, the great path is very wet and muddy just northward of the smaller of the two humps as it descends into the gap they call Bradley. The walkers of the great path are finding alternate routes so the mud does not encroach upon their strange shoes.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 5/23/2023

**Purpose:** Roan VUM, Carvers Gap site visit

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

**People:** Tim Stewart, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer

**Summary:** Carl, Greg and I met in the morning and explored a possible new trail from Carvers Gap. The trail partly follows an old road West of NC 261 and south of Carvers. It is a gentle down hill hike which passes a cascading waterfall and an open area with views of North Carolina. It is a nice hike. If this were a new trail it could possibly relieve some of the foot traffic off of Round Bald.

At 11:30 we met up with Natalia Muglia (Pisgah USFS) to explore another trail possibility on the Peake property to Grassy Ridge. It also follows an old road, but is rather steep with some wet areas. This trail could be combined with the aforementioned Carvers Gap Trail to create a larger loop with existing trails (Grassy Ridge Trail and A.T.). Unfortunately, the current footpath is probably too steep to be viable. It was a good day. We had good discussions about other trail possibilities around Round Bald and possible ways to harden the existing A.T. over Round Bald.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/24/2023

**Purpose:** Modify boot brush attachment and meet with FS Washington Volunteer Coordinator

**Location:** Section 14d, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap, Roan Gardens

**People:** Carl Fritz

**Summary:** I modified the attachment of boot brushes so the 80-lb grates can be lifted independently. And grates do not need to be lifted to change brushes. Some day we may end up doing this in metal rather than wood. The FS Volunteer Coordinator from Washington, four representatives of Appalachian RD, Halley Burleson from Wild South, and I met and lunched for about two hours. Many things were discussed, including simplifying and automating new volunteer releases, volunteer hours, etc. The general absence of law enforcement officers and the impact on the forests and trails were mentioned. The need to have outreach with children and other volunteers seems to be more important today than ever.

**Reporting:** Greg Kramer

**Date:** 5/24/2023

**Purpose:** Pisgah Forest Meeting with Trail Volunteer Coordinator

**Location:** Teams Computer Meeting

**People:** Greg Kramer, Vic Hasler

**Summary:** Pisgah Forest hosted the FS DC leader of Volunteer Coordinators. This was a meeting for all of the FS Southern Region #8. Discussion was about how to get new volunteers and retain volunteers. We also discussed the problem of lack of diversity in the FS volunteers.

**Reporting:** Greg Kramer

**Date:** 5/25/2023

**Purpose:** Rehab Little Hump

**Location:** Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Yellow Mountain Gap

**People:** Greg Kramer, Dan Firth, Elzear Lemieux, Kevin Sedgwick, Rick Mulholland, Van Hovey, Scott Huskey, Carl Fritz, Richard Carter, Jeff Hatling

**Summary:** Jake Mitchell reported mud issues along his section on Little Hump. We went in by Jeff Hatling's place to start our rehabbing. Several steps were bad on the north side before the peak. All the waterbars on this side were plugged and the water ran down the trail and dug a trench. We installed 5 water diversions on that side. After the peak, we created or repaired more than 25 waterbars all of the way to the Horse Camp camping spot. We also repaired a step being bypassed and filled a boggy area with stones.