



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

October 2023

tehcc.org

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

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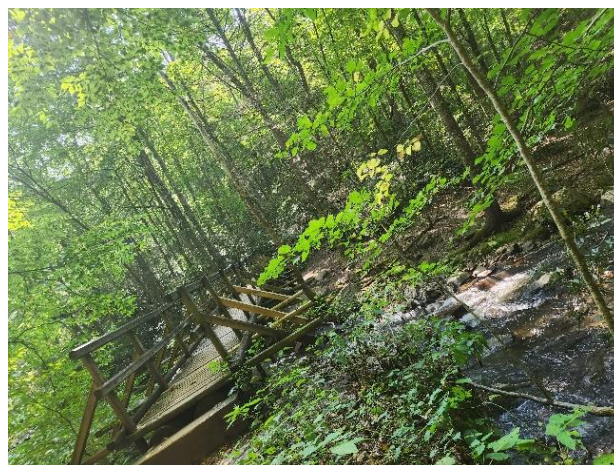
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*Laurel Fork Falls Trail
Photo by: Josh Hayes*

Letter from the Chair

Submitted by Josh Hayes (2023 Steering Committee Chair)

Hello friends,

October marks the end of the traditional hiking season and, as such, it is fitting that we are wrapping up our discussions of the **7 Principles of Leave No Trace** by discussing “*Be Considerate of Others.*”

Most of the principles have dealt with ways that we can be courteous and respectful to nature, everything nature entails, and future hikers. However, this principle specifically focuses on how we treat others who may be on the trail at the same time. This includes yielding to others on the trail, respecting others, and protecting the quality of their experience. We do this by taking breaks off the trail so as not to block it, avoiding being loud and drowning out the sounds of nature, and keeping an eye on our pets. Yielding to others typically follows this hierarchy: bikes yield to pedestrians, runners yield to hikers, and downhill hikers yield to uphill hikers. If you happen to bring a pet on the trail, be sure to know and follow the trail’s leash policies. If your pet is off leash, make sure they are easily controlled when others hike past. Some people may have a fear of animals that you don’t know about; so an ounce of prevention could prevent a troubling situation.

By applying the “Golden Rule” and considering how we would want to be treated, then treating others in kind, we can ensure that everyone has a great time in the outdoors. Another reason for being considerate of others is simply that their life is as vastly complex as your own and you may never know what a person is currently going through. Many use hiking as a means of de-stressing and reconnecting with who they are as a person, so your kindness may go a long way.

Thanks all,

Josh

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TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting, Friday, October 13, 2023

The speaker and largest city park in Tennessee are well known to the club. Thus, Megan will share about the improvements in the city park regarding the Nature Center, animal habitats, and the third Saturday “Gorillas” trail crew.

The club also has some of the recently ordered TEHCC logo t-shirts! \$10 for short-sleeve EcoSmart 50/50 pre-shrunk poly/cotton blend and \$15 for the long-sleeve lightweight 100% moisture-wicking polyester. Maybe we have your size and favorite color.

Dinner is **\$12/person**, which includes the meal, beverages, dessert, and tip. Attending only the program is free. We need a paid headcount to properly size the food order. Please let Steering Committee Treasurer [Joseph Sengeh](#) know by **Monday, October 9**, if you plan to attend. Make checks payable to Joseph and mail to:

Eastman Chemical Company
200 South Wilcox Dr.
Building 162, Rm. 132, Attn. Joseph Sengeh
Kingsport, TN 37660

Event	Time	Details
Fall Dinner Meeting October 13, 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 – Fajita bar, plus tea/lemonade/water, coffee, and dessert	6:30pm–7:15pm	Barberitos Beverages and dessert by the Steering Committee (\$12 per person)
Club Business	7:15 pm – 7:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update of club activities• ATC Volunteer Awards
Program: Bays Mountain Park	7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Megan Krager (Park Manager, Bays Mtn Park)

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
Oct 6 – 9	41 st Annual ALDHA Gathering (Appalachian Long-Distance Hikers Assoc)	www.aldha.org	
Oct 7	Hiking with Tools! 9:30 am – 2 pm	Joe Morris	423-571-5201
Oct 7	Hike: Roaring Fork Creek Falls / Setrock Creek Falls, 8 am – 3 pm	Vic Hasler	423-416-3166
Oct 13	TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting, 5:30 – 9 pm	Joseph Sengeh	
Oct 19	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1 pm	Josh Hayes	270-585-5929
Oct 21	Bays Mountain Park Trail Maintenance, 9 am – 2 pm	Tony Messina	
Oct 21	Hike: Devil’s Bathtub	Josh Hayes	270-585-5929
Oct 28	TEHCC Paddling Trip, Watauga River, 11 am – 3 pm	Andy Steffan	919-928-4738
Nov 11	Hiking with Tools! 9:30 am – 2 pm	Tim Stewart	
Nov 16	Steering Committee Meeting, Noon – 1 pm	Josh Hayes	270-585-5929

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! 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 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.

***Note change for October. In October, Hiking with Tools! will be led by Joe Morris on the first Saturday, October 7.**

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

Roaring Fork Creek Falls / Setrock Creek Falls, Saturday, October 7, 2023, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

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

Rating: Pair of easy 1.0–1.5 mile in-out hikes, each with less than 120' elevation change

Start: 8:00 am from Ingles in Colonial Heights. Back: 3:00 pm

Let's explore two waterfalls near each other in North Carolina east of Mt. Mitchell. Fall color should be at its peak, but the water flow might be less if we've had a dry spell.

Roaring Creek Falls is a long cascade dropping about 50'. It is reached on USFS Trail #195, a short 2/3-mile hike on an old Forest Service road. My ulterior motive is to find GC15F, the oldest traditional geocache in North Carolina hidden in January 2001.

Then roughly a ten-minute drive away, **Setrock Creek Falls** is a 75' tiered cascade reached on USFS Trail #197, which is a 0.5-mile gravel path. We'll have lunch at the falls.

Let's leave the Colonial Heights Ingles parking lot by 8:00 am (sunrise is 7:30 am) for just under a two-hour drive. Expected return time is mid-afternoon around 3:00 pm. Please call/text/e-mail the hike leader to know headcount or if last minute changes.

Devil's Bathtub (Take Two), Saturday, October 21, 2023, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Contact: [Josh Hayes](#), 270-585-5929

Rating: Moderate

Location: Devil's Bathtub, Devil's Bathtub Trailhead, Forest Road 619, Dungannon, VA 24244

Weather Permitting

Halloween hiking at its finest! Join us on the trail to the Devil's Bathtub, considered moderate and rooty with creek crossings. The leaves should be in full change! Closed shoes are recommended as are snacks and water. Call Josh Hayes (270-585-5929) if interested.

TEHCC-Led Paddling Trip, Saturday, October 28, 2023, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

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

Location: Watauga River

TEHCC will transport our 6 kayaks and canoe to the put in location. All you need to do is sign up on at tehcc.org, bring water and snacks/lunch, and get ready for a fun day on the water.

The plan is to either paddle a section of the Watauga River below Wilbur Dam or a choose-your-own style adventure paddle on beautiful Watauga Lake, depending on people's comfort level and dam release schedules. The leader will provide an update via text/email/call to participants ahead of time on the exact meeting location, but anticipate meeting around 11am and spending 3 to 4ish hours on the water. Keep in mind for apparel choices, the river especially can be fairly cold, even in the middle of summer.

If you have a boat and would like to bring it, the more the merrier; just let me know on the sign-up form and please bring appropriate gear, including PFD! Inexperienced or first-time paddlers are welcome!

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Roger Holbrook

James Uraski, Jr.

For the Record



Warrior's Path Overlook Trail and Duck Island, September 2, 2023

Erin Ekart reporting

This trail is perfect for a leisurely walk in the fresh air and flat enough to maintain a good conversation, which is exactly what we did. There are multiple offshoots around the Overlook Trail, and we had fun taking a couple of them just to see where they led (mostly nowhere or the disc golf course). To extend the hike to 3 miles, we also walked down to Duck Island and took a couple laps. The weather was fantastic, and the trail and island were not too crowded to enjoy the solace of nature.

Attendees were Erin Ekart, Ethan Hulse, Katie Devin, and Tori Knollmeyer.

If you go: Beware of spider webs on the overlook trail and prepare for a sad lack of ducks.

Laurel Fork Falls Trail, September 16, 2023

Josh Hayes reporting



We started the hike at 10:15 to give others a chance to make it, but finally had to set out. It was a beautiful day for a hike with temperatures in the upper 60s. We took the lower trail which starts off very open and wide with a few spurs that circle back to the trail, to help you avoid muddy areas. There were several bridge and rock crossings that were quite enjoyable with very little incline along the trail. The last 200 feet of the hike was a little bit of a scramble around a rock shelf, which made the hike very enjoyable.

Attendees were Josh Hayes, David Scanlan, and Gabriela Brueggerman.

If you go: The trail was well maintained with no noticeable litter, the trail did have some light bouldering.



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A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Tom Sahlin

Date: 8/17/2023

Purpose: Cut back encroaching vegetation and look for blowdowns

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

People: Tom Sahlin, Marlene Simpson

Summary: I arrived before Marlene, so she joined me at the first bend where I had chopped back weeds before she arrived. We then proceeded to the apple orchard, clearing the trail. Marlene cleared the trail of sticks and limbs, as well as pinching off weeds hanging over the trail. I followed with the grass whip widening the trail in the worst places. When we arrived in the orchard, I worked my way down, taking out weed growth encroaching the trail and shortening growth in the trail. Then the hard labor began, where we took turns weeding to the spring. The trail to the spring had not been touched in about a month. The trail is at least 250 feet long. Marlene can swing a mean grass whip (see pic). We then hiked to the plateau just below the top where the pinnacle of rocks are located. Marlene cleared limbs as I used the grass whip to clear more weeds hanging into the trail. The purpose of hiking to the top was to search for blowdowns, but none were found. When we made it to the campsite at the plateau, we had a quick snack and returned to the trail head. Marlene was a great help weeding and I appreciate all her help, especially considering we hiked out half or more in the dark.



Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 8/18/2023

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Sections 2a and 2b, McQueen's Gap to Backbone Rock Trail and down to Backbone Rock parking lot

People: Ed Speer, Tim Stewart

Summary: Ed and Tim hiked north from McQueens Gap searching for a blowdown reportedly north of Abingdon Gap Shelter. A few hundred feet north of the shelter, we removed a large magnolia tree that had fallen probably the night of August 14 or 15. (This green tree with fresh leaves was not the blowdown reported by Steve Perri on July 22.) After removing this first blowdown, we continued hiking north, with Tim pruning vegetation and me removing loose limbs and stones. Five miles north of McQueens Gap, we removed a large, forked treetop that had fallen on the A.T. on a steep slope. (This was the blowdown reported by Steve Perri; this blowdown was also accurately described to me by a SOBO I met on August 12 on Cross Mountain.) This blowdown forced all hikers to climb up the slope to get around it. The blockage of the trail was the principle reason I asked Tim to help find and remove it. We continued north to Backbone Rock Trail and down to TN 133.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 8/30/2023

Purpose: Roan VUM (Visitor Use Management) - Round Bald site visit

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

People: Tim Stewart, Carl Fritz, Bettye Boone, Saylor Fox

Summary: The trail counters arrived and we installed them yesterday. There are 3 counters in 3 locations: south of Carvers Gap, north of Carvers Gap, and south of Jane Bald. Bettye and Saylor will be the monitors, which includes retrieving data and uploading to Traftx DataNet. These counters should provide visitor usage data for the VUM Committee. We also revisited the potential test sites (for gravel box steps and plastic pavers, etc) and discussed options for maintaining a sustainable trail on Round Bald. Typically, we had unpredictable weather on Round Bald.



Reporting: Scotty Bowman

Date: 8/31/2023

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd

People: Scotty Bowman

Summary: It was a quiet day in Big Laurel Branch. The sun was shining and there was a cool breeze. I hiked up to Vandeventer Shelter to do some routine maintenance. Along the way, I cleared 5 small blowdowns (18" and under), removed 2 fire rings and rehabbed campsites, and cleaned out 2 waterbars. At the shelter, I refreshed the graffiti board, replaced the shelter journal, cleaned out the gutters, and picked up 10 lbs of trash (mostly clothes). The spring at 3.3 miles north of Wilbur Dam Rd is still flowing as is the spring at Vandeventer.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 8/31/2023

Purpose: Repair stairs

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Greg Kramer, Tim Stewart, Elzear Lemieux, Van Hovey, Richard Carter, Michael Watts, Tony Messina, Carl Fritz

Summary: We rehabbed 30 feet of trail and repaired or rehabbed 25 steps. Jesse, Carl, Tony, and Elzear rebuilt the Check Steps from scratch, really impressive set (see pic 1). Steps by the cliffs were rehabbed to better allow water to bypass the steps. Greg, Mike, Van, and Richard cut down berms, cleaned water bars, and rebuilt steps by the water source (see pic 2). Near the water source where we were rehabbing the trail, we found a hazard tree (see pic 3).



Reporting: Tom Sahlin

Date: 9/2/2023

Purpose: Remove encroaching vegetation

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

People: Tom Sahlin

Summary: Starting from Iron Mountain Gap, I used a grass whip to cut back encroaching vegetation. I removed plants leaning into the trail from the trailhead to the top of the ridge and down to the Apple Orchard. In the orchard, which had grown considerably in the 2 weeks since I was there, I chopped weeds the length of the orchard. Now it is acceptable for hikers to get through. This will give Joe Morris the option of whether or not he wants to use a string trimmer in the next 2 weeks so as to heal his new hip. I will continue to weed until he has completely healed. Joe, I said, "I wouldn't do it, but the exercise won't hurt me and it might hurt you." Sorry, but you got overruled. Take your time and get better. :-)

Reporting: Joel Zabel

Date: 9/2/2023

Purpose: Paint Cherry Gap Shelter and clear blowdowns

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to Low Gap

People: Todd Markwalter, Denny Samuel, Jim Foster, Jeff Bennett, Ed Brading, April Busby, Josh Banks, Adam Bean, Joy Zabel, Joel Zabel

Summary: Our main objective was to paint the shelter. We hiked in 1.4 miles from Red Fork Road with supplies, hiking up FS 230D to the A.T. We scraped, wire brushed, wiped down, dried, and painted the shelter. We hiked to Low Gap and then to Iron Mtn Gap to clear the trail of 6 blowdown branches, all 4" or less, 1 to 1.5 miles from Iron Mtn Gap. We carried out trash and improved the water diversions around the shelter. The water source at the shelter had great flow. (See pictures, next page.)

Cherry Gap Shelter – Before (or during)...



And After. Great job!!



Reporting: Tom Sahlin

Date: 9/4/2023

Purpose: Inspect trail for blowdowns and shelter

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

People: Tom Sahlin

Summary: I talked to Ed Speer on the day prior to going to Cross Mountain. He requested that I find out if the signage was still in place and check for blowdowns between the trail head and shelter. The sign for the north bound trail was still in place and no blowdowns were found. The trail was in good shape except for a few sticks and branches on the trail which I removed. The shelter was in okay condition except ridge cap on the roof is beginning to come up where the ridge caps overlap. A couple of roofing screws should be good enough to secure it. I carried out a small amount of trash from the shelter. I saw no hikers, bears, or animals. The spring was flowing only about 2 cups per minute.

Reporting: Aaron Brown

Date: 9/4/2023

Purpose: Recon for “Hiking with Tools” and cut weeds

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

People: Aaron Brown

Summary: In preparation for the 10/7 “Hiking with Tools” outing, the entire section was walked to give guidance as to opportunities. Additionally, the weeds at the upper end of the section were cut back in preparation for the southbound season. Three small blowdowns were removed, but one major blowdown remains. This will require a sawyer; but at the moment, it's an easy walk-under and doesn't appear to be in danger of falling anytime soon. The section south of where the guardrail trail connects is where the predominance of the opportunity for “Hiking with Tools” exists. This work consists primarily of lopping rhododendron and other vegetation. The Thursday crew has made good improvements to the treadway in the lower portion of the section; it looks great. The shelter was found to be clean and in good shape. The water source was clean but did not have much flow. Overall, it was a good outing; only one other hiker encountered, a flip flopping thru-hiker.

Reporting: Bettye Boone

Date: 9/5/2023

Purpose: VUM Orientation

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap - Cloudland Hotel

People: Bettye Boone

Summary: VUM Orientation for Bettye as NC Community Representative

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 9/5/2023

Purpose: Remove blowdowns and hazard tree

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Greg Kramer, Carl Fritz

Summary: There was a report of a 3-foot tree down between Uncle Nicks and Cross Mountain Rd. Carl and I parked on the Cross Mountain Rd access and walked in from there. The first blowdown we encountered was a small one that was mentioned, but no location was given. The second blowdown was just after the clearing about halfway to the shelter. It was 30" in diameter and the trunk of a very dead tree. The tree fell across the trail and was difficult to get around. The first cut easily rolled away after being cut. The cut near the roots also rolled away off the trail after being cut. We then twisted the roots uphill into a safe location. On our way down we found a hazard tree in the group camping site. It fell easily and we hiked out.



Reporting: Bettye Boone

Date: 9/6/2023

Purpose: Attend Roan VUM Strategic Meeting

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap - Cloudland Hotel

People: Bettye Boone

Summary: Attended monthly Roan VUM Strategic Meeting

Reporting: Dick Martindale

Date: 9/7/2023

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 11a, From Dennis Cove trailhead to one mile south

People: Dick Martindale

Summary: I used a gas-powered trimmer to cut back grasses and thin woody brush. I only finished one mile which was the most critical. I will need a brush cutter and trimmer to complete this section.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 9/9/2023

Purpose: Hiking with Tools!

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Sugar Hollow Creek, Mountaineer Falls and Shelter



People: Tim Stewart, Gerald Scott, Aaron Fermin, Kelsi Fermin, Steve Perri, Rebecka Powell

Summary: After meeting at the Roan Mountain Community Park, we carpooled to Walnut Mountain Rd. It looked as though it might rain at any moment; nevertheless we ventured into the woods with tools in hand. Tasks were typical and we attacked them. Rhododendrons needed lopping and overgrown vegetation was cut back. We encountered and removed a couple of minor hazard trees as well as a few blowdowns. South of the Mountaineer Falls campsite area, we had heard of some entangled blowdowns. We found them and removed them. Although they were difficult to navigate through, they were not too difficult to remove. At the shelter we painted over the graffiti board and had lunch. There were 2 large diameter blowdowns that were left as stepovers. The farthest away is just before the shelter. It was another good outing. The rain did hold off, and back at the trailhead I passed out 2 patches (Aaron and Kelsi).

Reporting: Tom Sahlin

Date: 9/10/2023

Purpose: Look for missing hiker while cutting back encroaching vegetation

Location: Section 5, From TN 91 at Cross Mountain to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Tom Sahlin

Summary: I got a call from Trail Angel that a hiker might be missing and she was searching one end so she wanted me to search the other. I didn't find any trace of her being there, not even a note in the log book in the shelter, but found out later that she did stay there the night before I got there. On the way, I had hand pruners and removed blackberry and greenbriar vines hanging in the trail that were snagging my poncho. I also removed some White Snakeroot hanging in the trail, because they were wet as sponges making my pants wet. I also cut branches that were hanging from above if they touched me. The water source about two miles from the shelter was barely flowing enough to give a dog a drink. It rained on me for about 2 miles, giving me the chance to see how water behaved on the trail. It made it a small stream. I was going to take my grass whip, which would have been faster and easier, but there was a chance of thunder storms. The trail is now more passable, but could use more work.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 9/13/2023

Purpose: Roan VUM - Overmountain and potential Bradley Gap Shelter site visit

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

People: Tim Stewart, Carl Fritz

Summary: Carl and I were joined by Jerry Kyle (ATC) for a site visit to the Overmountain Shelter and 'potential Bradley Gap Shelter' site. At the potential site, it was determined that this would be an adequate site for a new shelter. It has very good (perhaps better than The Barn) views, nearby water source, nearby camping areas (but not directly at site), on a slope and on the edge of the woods. Precise location is to be determined. Additionally, there is relatively easy access for materials, but not easy access for hikers wanting to party. A moldering privy could be considered. After lunch we hiked back to The Barn and observed the deteriorating conditions of the shelter. It appears that hikers are making it into the loft area. The privy is still in decent condition, but we did discuss a potential 3-bin moldering privy as a replacement. An open area with good airflow and good light to help decompose the material is preferable. For this site, that is very possible. At this point in time, a picnic pavilion is not desired. Perhaps some additional picnic tables could be made from existing materials. It was a good visit. Another site visit is scheduled for next week. We saw 1 SOBO, 1 Flipper, 1 MYTH (Multi-Year Thru-Hiker - a new acronym for us) and 2 dayhikers. Great day to be in the Roans!



Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 9/14/2023

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Near Koonford Bridge and just south of Laurel Fork Shelter

People: Carl Fritz, Dick Martindale, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: Just south of Koonford Bridge, we blocked old trail that has been reopened by hikers. We added large logs, many rhodo trimmings from opening the real A.T., many large rocks, and we even felled a dead tree. On the A.T. just south of Laurel Fork Shelter, we replaced two locust steps. We added two new locust steps and a rock step.

Reporting: Saylor Fox

Date: 9/15/2023

Purpose: Trim weeds south from Carvers Gap

Location: Section 15a, South of Carvers Gap

People: Saylor Fox

Summary: I trimmed weeds on the A.T. south from Carvers Gap.

Reporting: Bettye Boone and Saylor Fox

Date: 9/15/2023

Purpose: Retrieve and upload data from 3 Roan Counters (see previous report by Tim Stewart, 8/30/2023)

Location: Sections 14d and 15a, North and south of Carvers Gap

People: Bettye Boone, Saylor Fox

Summary: We retrieved data from 3 counters on Roan and downloaded the data. Bettye set up the new computer from A.T. and uploaded the counter data to TRAFxDataNet. She also called TRAFX support to ensure the data is ready for analysis on the DataNet website. Successful!

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 9/15/2023

Purpose: Trim weeds

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

People: Joe Morris, Tom Sahlin

Summary: Tom and I went from Iron Mtn Gap to the Apple Orchard for what is typically the final mow of the season. What a great day! We encountered 3 thru-hikers, two SOBOs and a flip-flop. We mowed to the water source and cleared the tent area. The section is in great shape. Tom has done an outstanding job this year taking care of this area.



Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 9/16/2023

Purpose: Check section

Location: Section 11b, Canute Place to Bitter End, Hard Core Cascades

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: I was just out filling in the gap on my section. I went in from the new access point and then hiked south to Hard Core Cascades, lopping rhodos along the way. All the new bridges are in great shape and performing as intended.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 9/19/2023

Purpose: Roan VUM - Overmountain Shelter site visit

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

People: Tim Stewart, Greg Kramer, Carl Fritz

Summary: We met partners from Cherokee (Chad Ingle and Jesse Laramée) and Pisgah (Natalia Muglia, Luke Mason and Tara Wu) USFS for discussions concerning The Barn.

Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 9/19/2023

Purpose: Inspect and maintain trail

Location: Section 9b, Pond Flats to Hampton trailhead

People: Jennifer Baird

Summary: Encroaching vegetation was trimmed, particularly at the railroad grade. Two approximately 5-inch blowdowns were removed and several branches were removed that had blown onto the trail. One approximately 11-inch blowdown was noted approximately halfway up South Pond and can easily be stepped over, so it will be removed later. Jennifer saw one day hiker.

Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 9/19/2023

Purpose: Inspect and maintain trail

Location: Section 10, Hampton Blue Blaze Trail

People: Jennifer Baird

Summary: The HBB trail appeared to be in excellent condition overall. Some vegetation was trimmed and one small bag of trash was removed.

Reporting: Bettye Boone

Date: 9/20/2023

Purpose: Check and maintain our section

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap - Cloudland Hotel

People: Bettye Boone, Saylor Fox

Summary: We walked the entire section checking for any work needing to be done and performing needed maintenance. We checked the shelter and the water source at the shelter.

Reporting: Tom Sahlin

Date: 9/20/2023

Purpose: Remove encroaching vegetation and remove trash

Location: Section 16b, Started from Greasy Creek Gap to second knob past the first tall mountain

People: Tom Sahlin

Summary: I went up to Greasy Creek Gap via the trail access from Greasy Creek Friendly. From there, I intended to weed from the gap to the midway point of the trail at the pinnacle of rocks toward Iron Mountain Gap. When I reached Greasy Creek Gap, I found what appeared to be a thru-hiker resupply box and trash in the fire ring. The box was too big to fit in my pack, so I decided to burn it and the food left molding in the fire ring. There was also a baggie of something disgusting which was also consumed in the fire. It took a lot of small sticks to incinerate the mess and half an hour of my time that I needed to spend going to the halfway point of this section. After that I proceeded toward my destination while clearing sticks and limbs from the trail and weeding stinging nettles that were missed during last attempts. I ran into 3 section hikers at the top of the first tall mountain who were very nice. I then went to the second knob south on the trail when the sun went down on me. So I turned around and went back to the trailhead. It was a beautiful day with a breeze cool enough so that I needed my fleece jacket after the sun went down. Welcome to fall.

Reporting: Bettye Boone

Date: 9/21/2023

Purpose: Roan VUM - Reading Box data

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap

People: Bettye Boone

Summary: I read and caught up on previous VUM activities contained in "the Box."

Reporting: Greg Kramer

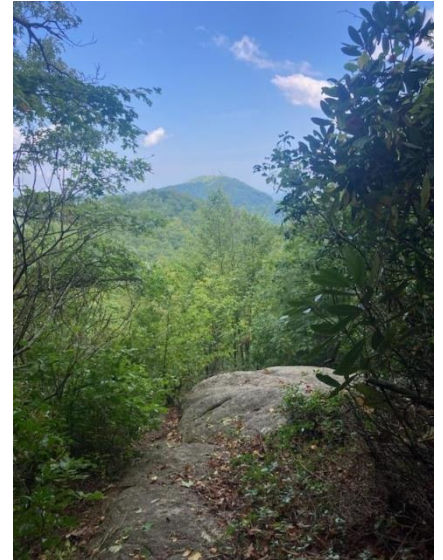
Date: 9/21/2023

Purpose: Rehab

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Road to Canute Place, Storm damaged area

People: Greg Kramer, Bill Murdoch, Elzear Lemieux, Van Hovey, Bob Peoples, Dean Baird, Tim Stewart, Dick Martindale, Jeff Hatling

Summary: We came back to deal with the downed trees near Coon Den Falls. Trees were cut and cleared but 4 massive rootballs were left behind. For the first two, we relocated the trail about 5 feet to go around the stump and rootball (see pic 1). For the next rootball, we had done a minor relo last time and we filled in the rootball with limbs and debris so no one would step into the hole. For the last huge rootball, we removed logs we had put in the hole and started to fill in dirt. The logs were added back only to the side of the trail (see pic 2). It was a glorious day today and Dean took a pic of the vista near Coon Den Falls trail (see pic 3).



Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 9/21/2023

Purpose: Hang graffiti board at Cherry Gap Shelter

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS230 switchback, Cherry Gap Shelter

People: Ken Murray, Lotta Murray

Summary: We hiked in from Red Fork Road to the shelter. We installed a new metal graffiti board in the newly painted shelter. Unfortunately the board extends beyond the edge of the shelter. After consulting with Carl, we have decided to go back and modify the installation so the metal sign does not stick out beyond the edge of the shelter.

Reporting: Dick Martindale

Date: 9/25/2023

Purpose: Clear and cut brush

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

People: Bob Peoples, Dick Martindale

Summary: Bob drove me to within two hundred yards of Canute Place on some challenging USFS roads. The roads were cleared of blowdowns, though they are very steep in some places and deeply rutted in others. Four-wheel drive and high clearance is a must. I used Bob's brush cutter from Canute Place to Dennis Cove Road and walked to Bob's after reaching the trailhead to return the brush cutter. This section of trail is now in good shape, thanks to an extraordinary amount of work by TEHCC and our friends at USFS, which is impressive since a TORNADO went through the area last month. The water source is running steadily. I met some happy and gateful hikers.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 9/25/2023

Purpose: TEHCC A.T. Committee Meeting

Location: Eastman Recreation Center

People: Dan Firth, Vic Hasler, Greg Kramer, Renee Messina, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Tim Stewart

Summary: The club's A.T. Committee discussed best use of available resources to fulfill our responsibilities. A few are highlighted in this report. Blowdowns from the recent storms were promptly cleared, including north of Abingdon Gap Shelter, Dennis Cove to Moreland Gap (with subsequent tread rehab), and a 3-foot diameter blowdown north of No Business Knob Shelter by USFS. Many thanks to the volunteer maintainers and Forest Service! Purchases funded by 2023 TN tag grants are to be wrapped up shortly. The committee approved ordering 1000 updated trifold brochures for recruiting volunteers as designed by Tim Stewart. Ideas for various 2024 grants are now sought to create solid scope definitions. The club's viewpoints on strategies and actions for the Roan

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Highlands Visitor Use Management were considered, including testing tread improvements. A large portion of the meeting was invested as a review of the evolving situation for trail maintenance and volunteers. Several changes in our approach could be tested and implemented during the 2024 season. Finally, our 2024 A.T. Maintenance Kickoff will be Friday, February 16th at the reserved Eastman Lodge banquet room.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 9/28/2023

Purpose: Concrete new Forest Service Signs

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove parking lot

People: Greg Kramer, Dick Martindale, Bob Peoples

Summary: The Forest Service installed some very nice signs in early August. Bob noticed the signs were not very sturdy, especially the Boundary Sign. Greg bought an 80-lb bag of concrete and used half for each sign. We put in partially sunk nails and extra stones also.



Reporting: Scott Huskey

Date: 9/28/2023

Purpose: Routine trail maintenance

Location: Section 12c, Along the Elk River and the access trail from Elk River Falls

People: Scott Huskey

Summary: I used my string trimmer to trim grass and vegetation on the section of trail adjacent to the Elk River. I did some trimming on the access trail as well. I hiked toward Campbell Hollow Road, but only about 100 yards past the 'staircase' near Jones Branch. All was well on that section. There are three dead-falls: one on the A.T. and two on the access trail. Tree-1 on the A.T. is located at 36 deg 12' 17" N, 81 deg 58' 37" W. Tree-2 is on the access trail at 36 deg 12' 11" N, 81 deg 58' 27" W. Tree-3 is a monster. The tree crosses the trail and the river too; it includes a huge root ball as well. It's located a short distance from Tree-2, specifically, 36 deg 12' 11" N, 81 deg 58' 26" W.

Tree-1



Tree-2



Tree-3

