



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

May 2016

tehcc.org

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Spring Dinner Meeting, April 22, 2016

Submitted by William Werner

About 30 members and guests gathered at the Eastman Lodge for the Annual Spring Dinner on Friday, April 22. After some fellowship and “Happy Trails Hour,” a catered dinner from Giuseppe’s Italian Restaurant was served, followed by pie for dessert.

Announcements

The following announcements were made at the dinner:

- A garlic mustard pull at Devil’s Creek Gap was scheduled for April 23
- Several upcoming hikes are scheduled in May
- The TEHCC lending library has been reestablished with a large selection of books and maps, more on that later in the newsletter.
- Three raffle prize winners each received a copy of “Forests, Alligators, Battlefields: My Journey through the National Parks of the South” by Danny Bernstein.

Volunteer Recognition and Awards

The following volunteers were recognized for their service hours in 2015:

- 50 Hours: Robin Dean, Becky Kinder, Howard Guinn, Steve Wilson, Gayle Riddervold, Randy Madigan, Dan Firth, Mike Price, Dean Baird
- 100 Hours: Daryl Anderson, Jim Floyd, Bruce Darby, Ken Murray, John Beaudet, Eric Middlemas, Steve Perri, Kayla Carter, Lynn DiFiore, Phyllis Cairnes, Joe DeLoach, Craig Haire, John Robbins
- 150 Hours: Brian Paley, Vic Hasler, Marsha Hupko
- 200 Hours: Richard Carter, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver
- 250 Hours: Jim Foster, Kevin Sedgwick, Pat Loven
- 300 Hours: Ken Buchanan, Greg Kramer, Mike Hupko
- 400 Hours: Jim Chambers, Joe Morris, George Thorpe
- 500 Hours: Tim Stewart, Ted Mowery, Paul Benfield
- 550 Hours: Kim Peters
- 600 Hours: Bob Peoples
- 900 Hours: Carl Fritz

- Paddler of the Year was Jerry Griffin.
- Maintainer of the Year was Greg Kramer.
- Hiker of the Year was Tim Schaefer.
- The prestigious Stan Murray Award was presented this year to Ted Mowery. Congratulations Ted!

Afterward, Asheville-based author and guest speaker Danny Bernstein presented her book “Forests, Alligators, Battlefields: My Journey through the National Parks of the South”. Danny visited every National Park unit in the Southeast and had many stories and photographs to share from her travels. In addition to the famous parks, many of the obscure parks made for an interesting visit. She also attested to the helpfulness and accessibility of the rangers; her recommendation was to visit a park when the gates open and speak to the ranger on duty first thing. Her talk was an inspiring call to explore our region’s many National Parks.

TEHCC Library Revival

Submitted by Tim Schaefer

I have a simple start to the Library Collection. For simplicity, ease, and cost efficiency, I am planning on starting it as an Employee only benefit. The idea to deliver using Eastman Interplant Mail simplifies the logistics. Once usage gets established and the issue of getting it to Affiliates gets figured out, we can explore managing that aspect of it at that time. Since the club's official collection is quite dated, I'm focusing more on my own collection. I've added maps and hike guides that I have collected over the years. Hopefully more by the time that you read this. For now the library will be managed through a SharePoint List on our internal site. Please feel free to peruse the titles and send a note to tim@tehcc.org if you wish to check anything out.

View the list here: [Library Collection](#)

Remember to request loans from tim@tehcc.org and do send any offers of materials willing to loan as well.

Ted Mowery, 2015 Stan Murray Award

Vic Hasler reporting

After retiring in 2006, Appalachian Trail maintenance became a new endeavor for Ted Mowery. He also became a dedicated builder for Holston Habitat for Humanity. Ted is a quiet resource that is always figuring out a better and more efficient way to accomplish a task. For example, he purchased a two wheeled carrier that has been invaluable on several projects where we had to move logs long distance. If we are in the field and suddenly have a need for a length of rope or other small tool, Ted will likely pull such items from his backpack. He always packs an extra sandwich so a hiker who suddenly joins us or a maintainer who forgot their lunch can eat. And if we need battery operated power tools, Ted brings a large supply. He always asks what he can provide for any trip.



During the last nine years of Hard Core, Ted has been called upon to drive to Damascus each Sunday morning to transport as many hiker packs as he can in his pickup with a bed cap. He then drives to the worksite, leads a crew, goes to supper, and then heads after dark to Kincora hostel to distribute the packs to the hikers. On Monday, Ted is back at the worksite to lead yet another crew.

Since 2008, Ted has partnered with Paul Benfield to maintain Trail Section 4b from Double Springs shelter to Hwy. TN-91. This portion of the Appalachian Trail includes the accessible path in the open Osborne Farm fields, thus Ted hauls his zero turn mower out about every three weeks during the growing season to keep the grass and briars in check. In recent years they have also mown around the Overmountain shelter to keep the area open for viewing and camping near the barn. To accomplish both of these tasks in one day, Ted and Paul drive about 150 miles over four hours on mountain roads. Over the past ten years, Ted has volunteered almost 3800 hours on the Appalachian Trail. The club is delighted to thank Ted for his exceptional expertise and crew leadership for the benefit of the Appalachian Trail and the local hiking community through the TEHCC Stan Murray Award.



Five Years for Tennessee A.T. License Plates

Vic Hasler reporting

Five years ago, the first thousand Tennessee Appalachian Trail license plates began appearing on vehicles within the state. Now roughly 3,300 tags are displayed based on revenue from the past four quarters. This underpinning effort has so far provided nearly \$250,000 available to fund projects along the Trail corridor. For TEHCC, these have ranged from Hard Core support, Koonford bridge construction, two high-end string trimmers and accessories, barriers at Beauty Spot, hard hats for maintainers, kiosks, and fencing for Osborne Farm tract. The tag fund has also enabled land acquisition at Shook Branch and Rich Mountain. If you have a TN license plate, then thank you. And share appreciation with others when you see one around the community.

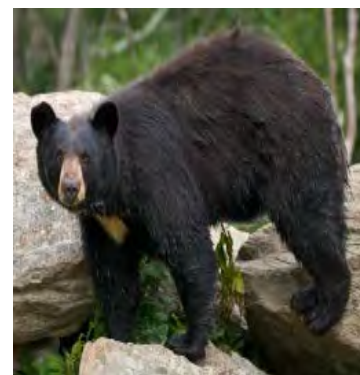


Bears, Wildfires, Oh My!

Vic Hasler reporting

Past few weeks have been very busy for the Cherokee National Forest and Appalachian Trail. Two nights of bear encounters were reported at the Watauga Lake Shelter. The bears were seeking food, thus destroyed a pair of tents, able to shake a bag off the bear pole, and climbed trees for hanged bags. Closure Order now covers Oliver Hollow Rd./Hwy 321 to Wilbur Dam Rd. – approximately four miles of the Appalachian Trail along the west side of Watauga Lake. No picnicking, lingering, or overnight camping. This notice continues until the situation is resolved.

Wildfires have also been experienced this month. The Railroad Grade fire near Roan Mountain ended up consuming about 1,750 acres of forest by the time it was fully contained. Moreland Gap Shelter was temporarily closed with the hikers routed on a Forest Service road or shuttled past the impacted area.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Rocky Hedrick

Carmela Vaughn

Tao He

Anna Lynch

Mike Zimmerman

Mark Snapp

David Hite

Cheng Cheng

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

For information on paddling events, see <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/category/regional-events/>.

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
May 14-15	Trail Days – Damascus, VA 24236		
May 17	Steering Committee monthly discussion	William Werner	423-408-4469
May 20-22	Bluestone River Trip, 37 th Year	Terry Dougherty	423-502-5177
May 21	A.T.: Nolichucky to Beauty Spot/Deep Gap	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846
May 27-29	Watauga Lake Shakedown-Practice Paddle/Camp	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
May 28	F/B: The Great Channels of Virginia	Tim and Carrie Schaefer	423-302-0846
June 4-5	APE's Beginner Whitewater Kayak Course		
June 4-5	Noli Gorge Overnight Raft & Kayak Trip		
June 12	F/B: Gardens of Roan and Roan High Bluff	Tim and Carrie Schaefer	423-302-0846
June 18	Nolichucky 15th Annual River Cleanup		
June 25	A.T.: TBD	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846

Standard Hike Information

Hikes leaving from “Colonial Heights” gather at the parking lot below McDonalds, 4317 Fort Henry Drive, which is NW of I-81 Exit 59. The “Johnson City” meeting location is behind Parkway Discount Wine & Liquor just off I-81 Exit 24 at the intersection of University Parkway and South Roan Street. The “Gate City” spot is up on the hill above US 23 at Kane Street intersection (traffic light) by Food Lion. All hikes will leave promptly to stay on schedule. Carpooling is encouraged with passengers providing a few dollars each towards gas.

Bring adequate water, snack/lunch, clothing appropriate for the weather, comfortable footwear, headgear/sun protection, bug spray, camera, and trekking poles as desired. At the discretion of the hike leader, the family dog can come, if friendly, and kept on leash. Walking speed is typically 2 mph including rest breaks. For more information, check the trail wiki (click on hike title if underlined for the link) or call the hike leader. It is appropriate to contact the hike leader to let them know that you are interested in coming and provide a cell phone number in case plans change for either party.

An activity release form is signed by everyone going on the hike – and it helps capture the names and spelling for the trip report. Good digital photos from the hike are also appreciated for the newsletter and trail wiki.

Details of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

Tuesday Evenings: Johnson City Roll Practice, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Contact: [Wesley R. Bradley](#), 423-647-1321

Come join the [J.A.W.](#), [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.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Note: The J.A.W. provides the current fleet of boats for demo at the pool session, but neither the pool nor the J.A.W. provides paddling equipment (paddle, spray skirt, etc.). If you are just starting out in the sport and do not have your own equipment, please post a message on the [APEs yahoo group site](#) or contact [Wesley R. Bradley](#). We will try our best to get you outfitted for the night! Also feel free to contact Wesley for any other questions or comments you may have.

Most Thursdays: Weekly A.T. Trail Maintenance

Contact: [Carl Fritz](#), 423-477-4669, atvolunteer@tehcc.org

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 133.6-mile section each week, usually on Thursdays.

Thursday Evenings: Kayak Session, Kingsport Aquatic Center, 7 – 9 pm

Contact: [Ryan Shealy](#), 423-963-6066

Interested in kayaking but don't know where to start? Basic kayak training and practice is now available in Kingsport on Thursdays at the [Kingsport Aquatic Center](#)! During the winter months (October-April), the indoor pool is sectioned off specifically for kayakers to practice basic paddling techniques. Admission is \$3 for two full hours of fun; Aquatic Center members may attend free! If you have equipment, you may drop it off outside the door closest to the pool, then enter the main door to pay at the front desk. The pool does not provide paddling equipment, but if you are just starting out and do not have your own gear, please contact Ryan Shealy (423-963-6066). For additional event details, click [here](#).

3rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!

Contact: [Kim Peters](#), atmaint@tehcc.org, 423-366-0128

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, such as breaking up fire rings, cleaning out waterbars and steps, lopping rhododendron, and painting blazes. All tools will be furnished and no prior experience required! Last year we typically had four to five people on each trip – with eight new volunteers making a contribution. Contact Kim for hike details, including meeting time and place.

Scheduled Events

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Contact: [William Warner](#), chair@tehcc.org, 423-408-4469

Location: *Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN; Bldg 280, Room L7 (*note location change)*

The Steering Committee guides the general program for the club. The Committee normally meets at lunchtime on the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to all TEHCC members. Bring your lunch or grab a bite at the B-280 cafeteria. Members who are not current Eastman employees need to contact a member of the Steering Committee at least the day prior to arrange for a temporary visitor's pass.

Bluestone River Trip, 37th Year, May 20-22, 2016

Contact: *Terry Dougherty, 423-502-5177*

We will stay at the beautiful Pipestem State Park (Mountain Creek Lodge). We have reserved a block of rooms; please call 800-CALL-WVA (ask for Pipestem State Park / Mountain Creek Lodge) and reserve your room for Friday and Saturday. To secure one of the clubs block rooms, reservations must be made by May 6. Room is \$80/night + taxes. We plan to paddle the scenic Bluestone River both Saturday and Sunday. This is a Class III trip the first day and Class I the second day. You can skip the second day, if you like. Other options include family camping at the state park campground and/or driving up on Saturday morning. This is a GREAT trip with a lot of family fun, scenic river and very nice lodging. In addition to the paddling, Ed Montgomery will once again be in charge of HAPPY HOUR and libation coordination on Saturday night and is going to make this one special. Please contact the trip leader, Terry Dougherty, if you are planning to attend the trip.

A.T.: Nolichucky to Beauty Spot/Deep Gap, Saturday, May 21, 2016

Leader: *[Tim Schaefer](#), 423-302-0846*

This will be the following "May edition" to the TEHCC AT hike series. Plans are still firming up, but based on early feedback, May 21st will be the targeted date and we'll do the next section north. We'll start (or end) at the Nolichucky River and finish (or start) at possibly Beauty Spot or Deep Gap. We should have enough attendees to handle shuttling. If you're interested in this hike, or this series of hikes, contact Tim Schaefer, 423-302-0846 or tim@tehcc.org to participate in the planning and I'll include you in future emails.

F/B: The Great Channels of Virginia, Saturday, May 28, 2016

Leader: *[Tim and Carrie Schaefer](#), 423-302-0846*

The Great Channels are an unusual geological maze of large crevices in a sandstone bed. The formation is up on a ridgeline, thus also great views. The three-mile path is part of the Brumley Mountain Trail - starting out as wide forest service road and then narrowing to a hiking trail. We'll enjoy exploring the channels and lunch before returning to the cars. Departure time is 9 am from Colonial Heights. The 56-mile drive to Hayters Gap will take 75-90 minutes north on I-81 and then winding up the mountain. We expect to departing from the trail head at 10:30 if you prefer to meet us there. For further information, check the trail wiki or call/e-mail the hike leader. We should be done and back to Kingsport by 5:00 pm. For more info, carpooling, courtesy notice for attending, so we know to look for you, contact Tim or Carrie Schaefer, 423-302-0846 or timcarrie@tehcc.org.

F/B: Gardens of Roan and Roan High Bluff, Sunday, June 12, 2016

Leader: *[Tim and Carrie Schaefer](#), 423-302-0846*

It will be a week before the official rhododendron festival, but come with us and beat the crowds. Maybe they'll be peaking early this year and we'll have a great view. Plan is to do the Gardens of Roan (0.5mi) and Roan High Bluff (2 miles) via Cloudland Trail. We will be departing the Colonial Heights meeting location at 12:30pm sharp. We expect to be at the trail head and departing at 1:45 if you prefer to meet us there. For further information, check the trail wiki or call/e-mail the hike leader. We should be done and back to Kingsport by 6:00 pm. For more info, carpooling, courtesy notice for attending so we know to look for you, contact Tim or Carrie Schaefer, 423-302-0846 or timcarrie@tehcc.org.

A.T.: TBD, Saturday, June 25, 2016

Leader: *[Tim Schaefer](#), 423-302-0846*

This will be the third "June edition" to the plan to hike the TEHCC maintained section of the A.T. As we still have yet to do the first April outing at the time of this writeup, I'm holding off on definitive plans until we can meet and discuss in more detail. We should have enough attendees to handle shuttling so this is your chance to hike it without doing it twice (out-and-back). Please let us know if you would like to join us. For more info, carpooling, courtesy notice for attending, contact Tim Schaefer , 423-302-0846 or tim@tehcc.org.

For the Record

F/B: Little Oak Recreation Area, April 3, 2016

Tim Schaefer Reporting

This hike fulfilled multiple purposes. Amongst the more common (outdoors, exercise, meeting others) it was a campground reconnaissance for a possible summer return. The hiking loops nearby were OK. No great view points, features of interest or other. The star of the show was the campground. On this slightly chilly day, it was mostly empty. Although it appears only the camp host has electrical hook-ups, there were still a few RVs there. The rest were tent campers. Due to the shape of the land it resides on, most of the sites could be considered shoreside. A summer weekend of swimming and kayaking adventure on South Holston Lake and the islands within can easily be imagined. Let's just hope it doesn't fill up too much and it stays as peaceful and tranquil as it was this beautiful weekend day. Attending this hike were the complete Schaefer family plus two dogs and Vic Hasler. (See photos next page.)



View of South Holston



Pretending to be tired or just wanting to snack?



Typical Little Oak Campsite

A.T.: Coon Den and Laurel Fork Falls, Sunday, April 10, 2016

Vic Hasler reporting

The solo hikes to two waterfalls were enjoyed as planned. The loop of A.T., Coon Den Falls Trail, and roadway was completed in two hours. I was very glad that the Appalachian Trail was relocated off the now blue-blazed Coon Den Fall Trail, as the latter is very steep in places. The ~60-ft high Coon Den Falls was flowing well in a thin ribbon. The in-out hike to 50-ft high and wide Laurel Falls also required two hours as I picked up trash along the steep steps and engaged several hiking couples in conversation. During this hike section, I was finally able to admire the new Koonford Bridge! Got back home at 7 pm as planned.



Coon Den Falls



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 3/27/2016

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Roan High Knob Shelter

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I cleared about a half-dozen trees from across the trail from Carvers Gap to the Roan High Knob Shelter, including one across the side trail to the shelter. I met a thru-hiker who reported that there were about a dozen blowdowns between Hughes Gap and Cloudlands, especially in the upper part of this section.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 3/28/2016

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and rehab trail

Location: Section 20a, Near Nolichucky River

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I cleared two small blowdowns that had been reported to me north of the first Nolichucky overlook. I used large dead debris to block two places near the end to first big switchback where people had been cutting across the switchback. I also widened the trail a little above the steps at the road.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 3/30/2016

Purpose: Remove blowdown and tent

Location: Section 19b, Jones Branch Area

People: Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, George Thorpe

Summary: We removed an 8-inch blowdown and an abandoned tent made from a couple of tarps in the Jones Branch area.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 3/30/2016

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 20b, North of No Business Knob Shelter and South of FS 278

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, George Thorpe

Summary: We rehabbed trail by redigging and cribbing rooty areas that were sloughing. We worked south of USFS 278 and also north of No Business Knob Shelter. More work remains. We encountered about a dozen north bounders and a couple of section hikers.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 4/3/2016

Purpose: Maintain section

Location: Section 15a, Cloudland to Roan High Knob Shelter

People: Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

Summary: After learning that Craig Haire had cut blowdowns between Carvers Gap and Roan High Knob Shelter during a recreational hike, we concentrated between Cloudland and the shelter. There was only one blowdown which was cut, and we clipped some briars and branches. We placed the shelter register and cleaned up around shelter; not bad except for a couple of fire rings near the summit that we broke up. Thanks to Craig for his work, and to Carl Fritz for taking the initiative to notify me about it.

Reporting: Bill Hodge

Date: 4/3/2016

Purpose: Brush and refresh blazes

Location: Section 7, First Mile North of Wilbur Dam Road

People: Bill Hodge, Laura Hodge

Summary: We brushed from Wilbur Dam Road to the top of the switchbacks and refreshed blazes north and south bound for that section of trail.

Reporting: Anna Hackler

Date: 4/3/2016

Purpose: Check for blowdowns and trash after storms

Location: Section 10, Hampton Laurel Falls parking lot to A.T. Access trail

People: Anna Hackler, Shane Hackler

Summary: We cleared briars and over growth, picked up trash, and removed a few smaller trees that had fallen across the trail. Somehow all of the signs, except one, are gone from our entire section. Even the large Forestry Wilderness Area sign is gone. We had some thru-hikers not knowing which way to go coming down off the A.T. to get to Hampton, because the small sign there is gone also. It's the one that pointed left to the falls or right to Hampton. The one near the beginning of the trail that directs you up onto the newer trail to avoid the old mud swamp area is gone also. We tried to lay some bigger limbs across the old trail to prevent people from going down there. There are major tree problems in this area from where the electric company keeps coming through and trashing the hillside. The trees they chop down are all slowly coming down into standing trees and making them fall. That whole section of the trail looks a mess. If anyone can tell me how to get the sign replaced, I will pick them up and get them reposted asap. We should be having a lot of thru-hikers coming through over the next month or so.

Reporting: Eric Middlemas

Date: 4/4/2016

Purpose: Spring A.T. maintenance

Location: Section 17, Beauty Spot Gap to Low Gap

People: Eric Middlemas, Judy Middlemas, David Douthat, Grover Byrd, Wayne Jones, Mike Hupko, Marsha Hupko, Howard Guinn, Pat Kenney, Jack Lawson

Summary: We conducted Spring maintenance of the A.T. from Beauty Spot Gap to Deep Gap and from the upper south side of Unaka Mtn to Low Gap. We cleaned waterbars, lopped branches encroaching upon the trail, removed fallen tree limbs, and removed about 18 blowdowns. We also removed a blowdown at the water source at Deep Gap.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 4/4/2016

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

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

People: Kevin Sedgwick, Gloria Sedgwick, Eric Yankel (Robocop).

Summary: It was a beautiful day to be out. We passed about 10 hikers. There were a lot of limbs and dead fall. We cut several small and medium size blowdowns until we broke the handsaw. We filled and removed a garbage bag of trash. The limbs we pulled across the ATV path seem to be working somewhat. Multiflora rose is starting to come in and we cut it back. Some large blow downs remain. We saw Jim Chambers and Bob Peoples near the trail and reported to Jim about the blowdowns.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/6/2016

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to Spivey Gap, Near Oglesby's Branch

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Fischer, Carl Fritz, Danny Harper, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, George Thorpe

Summary: We continued trail rehab near Oglesby's Branch. The wind where the USFS road crosses the trail was about 25 mph and the temperature was below freezing when we arrived. We quickly moved away from that area. The rest of day was good and we mostly removed roots and rocks or cribbed with logs and backfilled. Another day of rehab in this area is needed.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 4/6/2016

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 15b, Cloudland To Hughes Gap

People: Bob Peoples, Jim Chambers

Summary: We removed 28 blowdowns and felled 8 dead hazard trees between Cloudland and Hughes Gap.

Reporting: Wes Ford

Date: 4/7/2016

Purpose: Check trail

Location: Sections 11 and 12, Dennis Cove Road to US 19E

People: Wes Ford

Summary: I did an overnigher southbound from Dennis Cove to 19E. Both shelters were in good shape with no trash. The Trail looked good except for several blowdowns. I took pics and will send emails to section maintainers and Carl. I passed 29 northbound hikers on the first day, stayed with four thru-hikers at Mountaineer shelter overnight, and passed 12 northbound hikers on day two. The first big bubble of thru-hikers are definitely here. All water sources were flowing well.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 4/7/2016

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We checked the waterbars and picked up trash around the trail head. There was a small blowdown at the entrance of the campground that had to be sawed and another fallen tree that we were able to roll off the path. Right before the power lines, there is a big tree partially blocking the trail that will need to be removed with a chainsaw. About 3/4 mile farther up the trail, two trees were uprooted taking about 20 feet of the trail with them leaving a big crater-like hole. We notified Carl that it will take a maintenance crew to reconstruct this part of the trail. A few feet from this area is another tree that needs to be removed.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/7/2016

Purpose: Place signage

Location: Section 10, Hampton Blue-Blaze and Trail junction

People: Dean Baird, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris

Summary: The signs and post at the junction of the blue-blaze trail to Hampton and the A.T. were removed recently. We toted in a 6x6 post that had been routed with basic signage. We dug a new hole and put spikes in the bottom of the post. Then we filled the post hole with rocks, a bag of Quikrete, and tamped soil. Using the same techniques, we also reset a 4x4 post at the power line that had been pulled up recently.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 4/8/2016

Purpose: Assess Trail

Location: Section 13, North of Doll Flats

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: Considerable trail loss has occurred north of Doll Flats, and Carl asked me to hike up to assess the damage. As reported by Becky and Gayle, approximately 30 feet of side-hill trail has been lost due to the root-structure failure of two large trees. Photos and assessment have been forwarded to Carl.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 4/9/2016

Purpose: Spring maintenance trip

Location: Section 3a, McQueen's Gap to US 421

People: Rick Lott, Richard Cox, John Nypaver, Michael Watts

Summary: We had to clear a blowdown on the forest service road to McQueen's Gap, which was an omen of things to come. The trail was covered by an inch of snow, with 20-30 mph winds on the ridges. Rather wintry conditions for a spring maintenance hike. Total blowdown count was seven that required a chainsaw. We also dug out waterbars, clipped brush, and picked up trash. We passed a number of thru-hikers scurrying to Damascus, hoping for warmer overnight accommodations.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 4/10/2016

Purpose: Remove trash

Location: Section 10, Coon Den Falls Trail to Laurel Falls

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: While the day was planned as a club hike, I ended up also picking up a full bag of bottles (glass and plastic), plus another half of one of aluminum cans. Most of the items were from the steep gravel hillside along the "cardio" steps to Laurel Falls or from the campsites along the A.T. The trail has free passage from Coon Den Falls Trail to Laurel Falls with more than a dozen thru-hikers and half dozen day hikers out enjoying the day.

Reporting: Ken Buchanan

Date: 4/11/2016

Purpose: Clear trail

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

People: Ken and Pat Buchanan

Summary: This time I took my axe along! We walked in about half way to the shelter and cleared a step-over blowdown. It was a fine day to be out and about. We encountered a dozen or so hikers.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/12/2016

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 4a, US 421 to within 0.3 mile of Double Springs Shelter

People: Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart

Summary: We cleared all blowdowns. Most were minor, but there had been some strong winds with many tree-tops broken out. Fortunately, the larger ones were off the trail. The trail is showing that many hikers have passed recently.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/12/2016

Purpose: Inspect relocation on Backbone Rock Trail

Location: Section 1, Backbone Rock Trail Near A.T.

People: David Youman, Jerry Kyle, Leslie Beard, Justin Farrell, Leanna Joyner, Reuben Potter, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart

Summary: We inspected the highest relocation on Backbone Rock Trail with the Konnarock Crew leaders, ATC and USFS. Konnarock Crew will be working two weeks on this in late June and late July. We also inspected the camping site for the crew. We enjoyed rain all morning.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 4/13/2016

Purpose: Prep Trail

Location: Section 13, North of Doll Flats

People: Bob Peoples, Jim Chambers

Summary: We prepped the work site for Saturday's project with the ASU Crew, and built a temporary trail to make the area safer. We also cut locust logs for cribbing and steps.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 4/14/2016

Purpose: Check bridges for rotten timbers

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road, Bridges over Laurel River

People: Ed Oliver, Jim Foster

Summary: Ed and I inspected the two bridges over the river trail north of Laurel Fork Falls. We found 9 braces, one 4-ft deck timber, and four 8-ft deck timbers that will need to be replaced. Once arrangements are made, we will scheduled a trip to do the work.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 4/15/2016

Purpose: Mow camping area

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the camping area at the Barn, installed drainage pipe under the path, and filled in the drainage pipe previously installed. We also removed rocks from the camping area; then gave a hiker (Gary Bear) with a medical problem a ride to Johnson City.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 4/15/2016

Purpose: Mow Trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds along the Trail as needed.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 4/15/2016

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to about 0.2 miles south of Grindstaff Monument

People: Ken Buchanan, Pat Loven, Kim Peters

Summary: We cleared all the blowdowns between TN 91 to just south of the Grindstaff Monument. Much thanks to Ken for carrying the chainsaw and to Pat for operating it! Although the day started out very cold and windy, it warmed up nicely and was a nice day to be out in the woods. We met dozens of thru-hikers, most of whom wanted to tell us about the recent bear events at Watauga Lake Shelter.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 4/16/2016

Purpose: Garlic Mustard Challenge at Roan Mountain

Location: Section 15a, Roan Mountain on SR 143

People: Greg Kramer, Serita Blankenbecler

Summary: Eighteen people showed up at the Roan Mountain State Park Conference Center at 10 am for the Roan Mountain Garlic Mustard Challenge. After introductions of people and people to garlic mustard, we had a warm-up activity, the invasive species hop; and then went off to our respective areas to pull. Greg Kramer and Serita Blankenbecler represented TEHCC. Amy Synder, Marquette Crockett, and two ATC interns went to the lower shaded portion of SR 143 to pull. We six pulled 190 pounds and the other 12 also pulled 190 pounds.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/16/2016

Purpose: Repair trail

Location: Section 13, About a mile below Doll Flats

People: Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Becky Kinder, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Gayle Riddervold, Gerald Scott, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe; ASU Trail Crew: Santino Thornton, Jeremiah Bolick, Kate Miller, Austin Babb, Trent Ellen, Audrie Emma Bruce, Samantha Smyth, Maddie Wolfarth

Summary: With a beautiful day and Dutchman's breeches blooming on the entire hill side, we repaired the section of trail recently removed by the root balls of two recently fallen trees. It is not often that it takes 19 good workers to repair 25 feet of trail. We were fortunate to have the ASU Trail Crew with us today. We had to haul a very large 25-foot locust by dragging it with a rope-pulley system. Then we hauled many rocks and soil to fill the almost three-foot deep hole, and added some steps on the south side. The trail is stable again.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 4/16/2016

Purpose: Put new metal lath on bog bridges

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

People: Phyllis Cairnes, Jeffrey Richards, Ken Murray, Kim Peters

Summary: The task for this first "3rd Saturday - Hiking with Tools" trip was to install new metal lath on the bog bridges on this section. The metal lath is used to provide a non-slip surface on the wooden bridges, but it deteriorates over time and it was time to replace the lath on these seven bridges. We started at Bitter End and worked our way to Walnut Mtn Road. The weather was perfect and we met many thru-hikers, most of whom thanked us for our work. There were a couple of instances of wet feet, but that is what happens when you stand in the water to hammer on the bridge. A great big welcome to Jeffrey Richards, a first-time maintainer, as well as all the rest of this hard-working crew. It was another great "3rd Saturday - Hiking with Tools" trip.

Reporting: Ken Buchanan

Date: 4/18/2016

Purpose: Clear reported blowdown

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

People: Ken and Pat Buchanan

Summary: For the third consecutive Monday, we hiked this section. A step-over blowdown had been reported since our last outing. On the way in, several hikers passed us, all younger and some better looking. Later, we found a smartphone in the trail. I picked it up and decided to make a try at catching them. Fortunately, I soon found they had stopped for lunch, saving me from a total collapse. Anyway, the young lady was quite appreciative. We went on, found and removed the blowdown (by axe) and passed the hikers once more on our way out. It was a lovely, fun day. Maybe we will get another tree down this week.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: 4/18/2016

Purpose: Check trail

Location: Section 8, Watauga Lake Shelter to US 321

People: Bob Peoples

Summary: Bob inspected the trail because of the weekend fire around Watauga Lake. The A.T. was not affected at all. They used the trail from just north of the shelter to a distance south of the shelter as a fire break. Visual damage from the trail is just some burned undergrowth. Hikers are able to pass through.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 4/19/2016

Purpose: Check trail for fire damage

Location: Section 8, Shook Branch to Watauga Lake Shelter

People: Brian Paley

Summary: I lopped multi-flora roses to clear the trail, cleared a couple of small blowdowns, and inspected the trail for possible damage due to the recent forest fire. The trail is in good, passable condition. However, there are several step-overs and leaning trees that I plan to take out on my next maintenance visit.

Reporting: Dean Baird

Date: 4/21/2016

Purpose: Inspect for blowdowns; remove trash

Location: Section 10, Hampton Blue-Blaze Ttrail

People: Dean Baird

Summary: I checked the trail for blowdowns or other damage; none were found. I removed two bags of trash.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 4/21/2016

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 20b, North and South of No Business Knob Shelter and South of USFS 278

People: John Beudet, Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Danny Harper, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Ken Murray, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We rehabbed trail north and south of No Business Knob Shelter. Mostly, we added locust side logs and rock cribbing to cover exposed roots. The graffiti board at the shelter seems to be working well and is about full. We must have seen two-dozen hikers. We did a similar rehab south of USFS 278. The trail rehab on this section is probably done for the immediate future.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 4/23/2016

Purpose: Check fire status and clear trail

Location: Section 11b, Bitter End to Moreland Gap Shelter

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: The trail was open, but fire crews were still busy containing the fire. I hiked out to Moreland Gap Shelter from Bitter End. There was no evidence of fire south of the shelter. I lopped rhodos and removed several small blowdowns. I also identified several areas that could use some minor repairs, mostly places where the trail is dipping. At the shelter, the rake, shovel and broom were all present and accounted for, as well as a little bit of trash, which I removed. I placed a bottle of hand sanitizer at the shelter. Local USFS and fire crews seemed to have the fire under control and were informing hikers as required. Great job done by all!

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 4/23/2016

Purpose: Garlic Mustard Challenge

Location: Section 20b, Devils Creek Gap

People: Vic Hasler, Dan Firth, Amy Snyder (ATC), Phillip (ATC Intern)

Summary: Two invasive species were addressed today. The club pulled 163 pounds of Garlic Mustard (*alliarica petiolate*) from Devils Creek Gap area along the Appalachian Trail. It was clear that the treatment made last year to remove 130 pounds was effective in reducing the number of plants growing along the trail, forest service roads, and an open area. However, continued diligence will be needed to complete the eradication. The other invasive species removed today was 17 pounds of litter (species: trashae humanous) mostly in the form of empty beverage containers. The day was cool and cloudy, which was good for working in long sleeves around the briars. Many section and thru-hikers (with a couple of dogs) were observed going in both directions. Another invasive (autumn olive) was seen along the edge of the open area; thus next year's effort could be expanded to cut and treat it with an approved herbicide.