

The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

June 2015 <u>tehcc.org</u>

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From the Chair

Steve Ankabrandt, Steering Committee Chair Greetings!

The American Hiking Society's National Trails Day® (NTD) is a celebration of America's magnificent Trail System that occurs annually on the first Saturday in June. The program is over 20 years old. This year many events are planned for June 6th and they are listed on the NTD website: http://www.nationaltrailsday.org/ntd-events/. Each event is a good opportunity to participate in the national program, enjoy the outdoors, and support ongoing trail maintenance and conservation awareness. Other organizations have trail days as well. One of the best known for A.T. hikers is the Damascus (Virginia) Trail Days (the 2015 event was held May 15-17). Their website (http://www.traildays.us/) lists the "Top Ten" for A.T. hikers and includes such items as: "Showers not required," "Get

lost in the woods and find yourself in Damascus," "It's worth every step," and "Finishing is optional, Trail Days is MANDATORY." So let's all find a favorite trail on June 6th and become part of the tradition.

Happy trails! Steve

Stan Murray Inducted into the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame

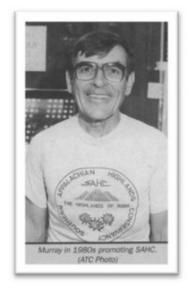
Vic Hasler reporting

TEHCC has received notice that Stan Murray will be inducted into the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame on June 5, 2015. The application cites the following three accomplishments and more...

While serving as Board Chairman of the ATC for 14 years, Murray played a major role in getting the National Trails System Act passed in 1968 to establish the Appalachian and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trails and authorize a national system of trails to provide additional outdoor recreation opportunities and to promote the preservation of access to the outdoor areas and historic resources of the nation.

He was president of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy for 11 years, and was later named its first executive director. The SAHC acquired thousands of acres of the majestic mountains along the border of North Carolina and Tennessee through which the A.T. passes. He also led the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club's 74-mile relocation of the A.T. from its original route on roads and valleys to the present spectacular route through the Highlands of Roan.

Murray was one of the first advocates of the greenway concept, which led to the present trail corridor through which the A.T. passes. He led ATC's move to a permanent headquarters facility in Harpers Ferry and hiring a full-time executive director and other important staff positions. He passed away in 1990 at age 67.



Judy Murray will be attending the June 5th Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame banquet in Boiling Springs, PA to accept the award on behalf of her late husband. TEHCC is proud to claim the leadership of honoree Stan Murray among its history.

Hard Core, May 17-18, 2015 and Fourteen Previous Years

Carl Fritz reporting

For our fifteenth and probably last major year of running Damascus Hard Core, we rehabbed the trail below and above Doll Flats and almost to Hump Mountain. Many of the rocky areas had become difficult to walk and the correct pathway was uncertain. Many hikers were incurring twisted ankles and knees (I can testify since I did it ten days before Hard Core). Parts of the trail had slid downhill because of steep areas and many roots, especially from Beech trees. In some places the trail was ten feet lower in a garland effect between trees. After weeks of preparation, 19 students from Christopher Newport University and 101 hikers were signed up to work on Sunday and Monday, May 17 and 18. Club members and friends, 37 in all, helped with the logistics, provided leadership, and prepared the Sunday evening meal. The hikers, led by Baltimore Jack and Chef Paul, cooked the Monday evening meal.



Hard Core rehabbed 4200 feet of trail in the two days; 3160 feet above Doll Flats in the Appalachian Ranger District and 1040 feet below Doll Flats in the Watauga Ranger District. Mostly, the crews moved the trail back to its proper location by installing locust or rock cribbing, locust or rock steps, or by rearranging the rocks and filling with crushed rock. The 15 sledges were insufficient to keep up with the demand. We had about 133 people in the field on Sunday utilizing most of our tools.

A Tennessee A.T. License Plate grant provided funding for the Sunday evening meal; the North Carolina A.T. License Plate provided funds for the Monday evening meal and for the purchase of performance t-shirts. TEHCC provided funding to print the t-shirts. "One Pint," although stationed in Antarctica, provided funds that helped with lunches for the hikers. The hikers did eat well this year!

157 individuals contributed 3214 volunteer hours this year! Club members and friends: Bill Fuller, Bob Peoples, Brian Paley, Carl Fritz, Curtis Baird, Daryel Anderson, Dean Baird,

Ben Pitts, Caroline Redick, George Thorpe, Greg Kramer, Jake Mitchell, Jim Chambers, Jim Floyd, Jim Foster, Joe Morris, John Beaudet, John Robbins, Ken Buchanan, Ken Murray, Kim Peters, Marsha Hupko, Mary Jane Fritz, Mike Hupko, Pat Loven, Paul Benfield, Robin Dean, Steve Wilson, Ted Mowery, Tim Stewart, Carole Dunham, Donna Ashby, Ed Oliver, Lotta Murray, Pat Buchanan, Vic Hasler, Andrew Downs, Charles LaPorte, Reuben Potter; Students and Hikers: Adam Fendley, Allen Womack, Andrew Carpenter, Andrew R. McMann, Ben Pitts, Caroline Redick, Connor Schick, Colton T. Harris, Dakota Jackson, Edward Smalley, Ian McKellips, Lucinda Yang, Matt Kubat, Matthew Hutchins, Michael Costas, Tony Vacha, Travis Searls, Tyler Melone, Tylor Alexander, Walker Vaughn, Will Korzeniewski, Amy Sternheim, Chris Cooper, Colleen Young, Jack Tarlin, Ron Batcheler, Roy Wagener, Graydon Rickert, Haley Vaughn, Charles Tucker, Deb Tucker, Stephanie Anders, Adama Malkia McGaepth, Adrian Charkowski, Alan Foster, Austin Clay, Bill Ristrom, Brianna Wiener, Bryan Garcia, Cameron Pendelton, Camion Shaefer, Candace Michale, Candra Glenn, Cheryl M. Hadrych, Colton T. Harris, Dakota Jackson, David Skelly, Deborah Mooney, Deke Deacon, Dennis Pendelton, Diana Ristrom, Donald R. Stewart, Doug Chenoweth, Elaine Ma, Ellen Crawford, Eric Fay, Ethan Farthing, Evan Womack, Felicity Keddie, Frank Nunzjatu, Franklin LaFond, Fred Grace, Mike Laude, Mike Price, Grace Kendall, Graydon Rickert, Haley Vaughn, Heidi Madsen, Hyder Mabooba, Ilene Henderson, Irge Henderson, Jack C. Gilbert, James Perkins, Jay De Wilbur, Jenn Tuthill, Jennifer Berry, Jillian Jackson, John Adriance, John Rainbo, John Tyler, Jonas Manderla, Jonathan Ludovico, Kaelan Archer, Kay Ce Wilbur, Kayla Carter, Kelly Wood, Kendall Abruzzese, Kip Redick, Kori McMurtry, Kristin Corley, Kyle Shirley, Lewis Moyers, Luanda Young, Luke Taylor, Marc Cossette, Marcus Welker, Mariah Guay,

Michael Belsole, Mike Laude, Mike Price, Molly Rose, MyPhu Phair, Nicole Laeger, Noah Naseri, Pat Mooney, Patrick Commons, Phil Abruzzese, Rachel Cheatham, Randy Madigan, Ray Douglas, Rebecca Oswalt, Rio Berry, Sarah Shores, Scott D. Ourth, Sean Brooks, Seminole Fraley, Shane O'Donnell, Shanna Allen, Smith Edwards, Thom Klein, Tom Groom, Tony Lang, Travis Johnston, Wayne Krevetski, Zach Thomas.

Hard Core has been an ongoing opportunity for hikers to give back to the trail. And they have rallied. Many hikers over the years have continued with maintenance on other parts of the A.T. or on other trails. In the fifteen years, Hard Core has built 7.4 miles of new trail; some of the most difficult were on our section. They also rehabbed over 1.1 miles of trail, and helped rebuild Clyde Smith Shelter and build Mountaineer Falls Shelter. The friendships developed during Hard Core will hopefully continue.

The Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association (ALDHA) have been generous in their support of Hard Core. Their funding provided much of the lunch and breakfast snacks for the hikers. ALDHA recognized these individuals who contributed to Hard Core for most, if not all, of the 15 years: Lewis Moyers, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Jack Tarlin, Phil Abruzzese, Paul Benfield, Ray Douglas, Carl Fritz, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Mike Hupdo, Amy Sternheim, Chef Paul, Jennifer Berry, Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster, Steve Perri, and Tim Stewart.



Bob Peoples (red hard hat), a major contributor to Hard Core for 15 years!

Improvements to Beauty Spot and Unaka Mountain Road

Joe DeLoach reporting

In the past few years, the Cherokee National Forest has performed several actions which enhance the experience and safety of visitors to Beauty Spot and other parts of Unaka Mountain. These started with the earthen vehicle barricade built in the summer of 2012, which has prevented driving onto the bald after campers were threatened by off-roaders that spring. Over many years, trees have encroached on the North Carolina side of Beauty Spot and blocked some excellent views of Roan Mountain and the Black Mountains. This spring, we approached the Cherokee and Pisgah National Forests with a proposal to let us clear some trees and

improve the views. Not only was that proposal accepted, the Cherokee National Forest Hotshots did the work! A great view into North Carolina from the summit of Beauty Spot has been reopened. Finally, work on Forest Road 230 was to be completed in May to make access to this beautiful nearby mountain safer and easier. TEHCC members are encouraged to visit Unaka Mountain and Beauty Spot and enjoy these improvements. We greatly appreciate these actions by the Cherokee National Forest, and our partnership with the Cherokee and Pisgah National Forests, along with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, to manage the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.



Introducing 2015 Roan Naturalist, Lee Farese



SAHC photo - Lee Farese and Joe DeLoach

Excerpt by Vic Hasler based on two stories by Kayla Carter published in the Elizabethton Star

The position of "ridgerunner" in the Roan highlands has now expanded to that of "naturalist." In addition to the duties of the "ridgerunner," i.e., documenting visitation numbers and talking about Leave No Trace, the "naturalist" also educates the public about protecting and preserving this rare and globally significant ecological resource known as the Roan highlands. Lee Farese will be the first person to hold the new title of Roan naturalist which is a joint effort between the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. SAHC will administer the role. Lee attempted to hike the entire Appalachian Trail in 2013, but was forced to stop at Blood Mountain in Georgia. "It snowed one day," he said. "I hit a patch of ice, slid and tweaked something in my knee that I couldn't get rid of." The end of that journey brought him to the beginning of a new one. "I stayed in Georgia for a month until I went up to Grassy Ridge to work," he said. "I wouldn't be here otherwise." Lee was the

first to be stationed at Grassy Ridge when SAHC purchased the property. "When they first bought it, I stayed up there for about three weeks," he said. "I cleaned up the cabin and did a little bit of work around the property." Lee also completed some naturalist-oriented work. "I checked into what bird and plant species were up there on the property," he said. "That's how I was first connected to SAHC."

Lee Farese, originally from Marin County, California, is a 2015 graduate of Colorado College with self-created major of environmental humanities. He explains that instead of teaching people how to treat the world in certain ways, his major explores the reasons why people treat the world certain ways. "It looks into environmental and ecological issues through a humanities lens rather than a science lens." His background includes working for a bird observatory in Colorado, two summers at a backpacker's refuge halfway up Pikes Peak, and taking inner-city youth out into natural areas to do habitat restoration.

As the Roan naturalist, Lee will be patrolling a 13-mile section of the A.T. primarily between Carvers Gap and Grassy Ridge. Say "Hi" and thank him for helping to keep one of the beautiful places on earth that way through education of its visitors.

ATC Biennial Conference, Hiking Through History, July 17-24



Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Biennial Conference (<u>link</u>) is being co-hosted by Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and Mountain Club of Maryland at Shenandoah University located in Winchester, Virginia. The site is near hundreds of miles of outstanding hiking trails, including a short 18-minute drive to the Appalachian Trail. The University is also close to important civil war battlefields such as Manassas, Gettysburg and Antietam, and 90 minutes from Washington D.C.

Workshops will be held during the day on Saturday, July 18th through Monday, July 20th. Coordinated hikes will be offered Saturday, July 18th through Thursday, July 23rd. In addition to amazing scenic areas, there will be nature, history, and photography theme hikes, plus sunset outings. Many of the hikes include a swim, and/or a stop at an ice cream shop, restaurant, winery, or brewery. Family hikng specialists have designed hikes suitable for most families that are five miles or less; plus hikes, suitable for most children eight years and older, that are nine miles or less.

Reistration for the 2015 Biennial Conference began on April 15, 2015. Discounted registration fees apply to all registrations made by May 31, 2015.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Chris Johnson Gemma McSweeney Amit Desai Anthony Ponzio
Andrew Sanders Kevin Urman Joseph Ewing Jason Silvers
Laura Weaver John Franjione Russell Barnes

Event Schedule - Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
May 30 – June 3	Konnarock Crew, Backbone Rock Trail	<u>Carl Fritz</u>	423-477-4669
June 5-7	Bluestone River Trip	Terry Dougherty	423-502-5177
June 10-14	Konnarock Crew, Backbone Rock Trail	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
June 14	Little Stony Creek Falls, Hanging Rock Rec Area	William Werner	423-408-4469
June 16	TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting	Steve Ankabrandt	
June 20	Nolichucky River Cleanup and Celebration	Jennifer Bradley	423-426-6734
June 20	Third Saturday Hiking with Tools	<u>Kim Peters</u>	423-366-0128
June 21	A.T.: Bridges and Rhododendron of Jones Branch	<u>Vic Hasler</u>	423-239-0388
June 26-28	Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
June 28	A.T.: Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge	William Werner	423-408-4469
July 10	Controlling Invasive Plants along Jones Branch	<u>Vic Hasler</u>	423-239-0388
July 16	F/B: FunFest "New" Moonlight Hike	William Werner	423-408-4469
July 19	<u>Laurel Fork Falls</u> , from Dennis Cove	Yancey Appling	864-508-2754

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. "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. "Gate City" spot is up on the hill above US23 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 <u>J.A.W.</u>, <u>Mahoney's Outfitters</u>, <u>APEs</u>, 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 fellowshipping 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 <u>here</u> 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 <u>APEs yahoo group site</u> or contact <u>Wesley R. Bradley</u>. We will try our best to get you outfitted for the night! Also feel free to contact me 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: George Mauger, 864-414-0296

Interested in kayaking but don't know where to start? Basic kayaking training and practice is now available in Kingsport on Thursdays at the <u>Kingsport Aquatic Center</u>! During the summer months, the outdoor pool is closed off to the public and available specifically for kayaker use with occasional opportunities to play in the lazy river. Admission is only \$3 for 2 full hours of fun and 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 George Mauger (864-414-0296). For additional event details, click here.

3rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!

Contact: Kim Peters, atmaint@tehcc.org, 423-366-0128

Come out for a day hike somewhere on our beautiful section of trail on the 3rd Saturday of each month and help out on some routine maintenance needs, such as cutting annual growth, cleaning out waterbars and painting blazes. All tools will be furnished and no prior experience required! Contact <u>Kim</u> for details and meeting time and place.

Scheduled Events

Konnarock Crew, Relo on Backbone Rock Trail, May 30 – June 3 and June 10 – 14

Contact Carl Fritz, 423-477-4669, atvolunteer@tehcc.org

For over 30 years the Konnarock Crew has been working with southern Appalachian Trail clubs to accomplish major projects along their sections. They have worked on most of our relocations during that period. This summer with two weeks of Crew time we'll work on improving the Backbone Rock Trail between the Appalachian Trail and Backbone Rock. The existing Trail follows a very steep grade which is not only difficult to walk but is subject to erosion. Volunteers who work at least 40 hours with the Crew are eligible for a Konnarock T-shirt. Volunteers are welcome to work with them anytime they're here, but we concentrate on the full three days in the middle of their work week. Those will be Sunday through Tuesday (May 31, June 1, and June 2) and again on Thursday through Saturday (June 11 – June 13). On those days we'll meet at Parkway Discount Wine and Liquor on South Roan Street in Johnson City at 8:00 am. We can also meet at other locations in Elizabethton, Kingsport, etc. Bring lunch, work gloves, a hardhat if you have one, and plenty of water. Please contact Carl ahead of time so we'll know to look for you and have tools ready.

Bluestone River Trip, Pipestem Resort State Park, WV, June 5 – 7, 2015

Leader: Terry Dougherty, 423-502-5177

We will stay at the beautiful Pipestem State Park (Mountain Creek Lodge). The trip has been rescheduled because Mtn Creek Lodge will not open until June 5 due to tram problems. The trip leader has 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. Because of the change in dates, reservations can now be accepted up to June 1. If you are holding reservations for May 22, your reservation will automatically be transferred to June 5. If you need to cancel and get a refund of your deposit, call Pipestem State Park. Other options include family camping at the state park campground and/or driving up on Saturday morning. (continued next page)

We plan to paddle the scenic Bluestone River both days. This is a Class III trip the first day and Class I the second day. You can skip the second day, if you like. The water flow this late in the Spring may not be optimal. If the flow on the Bluestone is too low or too high, we will plan to do something on the New or Greenbrier River. 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 if you are planning to attend the trip.

Little Stony Creek Falls, Hanging Rock Recreation Area, Sunday, June 14, 2015

Leader: William Werner, 423-408-4469

Rating: Moderate 5-mile round trip hike, up and back along a cascading stream

Experience two picturesque waterfalls hidden in a forested gorge. The narrow trail follows the cascading stream with bridges provided for all crossings. Leave 1PM from the Ingle's parking lot in Colonial Heights for a 1-hour drive. Bring a towel to dry your feet, if you plan on briefly wading at any of the waterfalls. RSVP to the hike leader if you are interested.

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, Tuesday, June 16, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Contact: Steve Ankabrandt, chair@tehcc.org

Location: Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN; Bldg 75, Room 407

The Steering Committee guides the general program for the club. Meetings are held monthly at lunchtime and are open to all TEHCC members. 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 pass.

14th Annual Nolichucky River Cleanup and Celebration, Saturday, June 20, 2015, 11:00 am

Contact: Jennifer Bradley, 423-426-6734

The Appalchian Paddling Enthusiasts (www.riverapes.org) are hosting their 14th annual Cleanup and Celebration on the Nolichucky River at U.S.A. Raft, 2 Jones Branch Rd, Erwin, TN. Registration starts at 11:00 am at the APE's Banner. Participants will be assigned to Clean Teams and given maps, trash bags, and gloves to help clean up the Nolichucky River, so that everyone can continue to enjoy its beauty. There are numerous clean-up opportunities for paddlers and non-paddlers alike. At 6:00 pm, there will be a celebration with a BBQ dinner (free to clean-up participants!) and music provided by The Whiskey Sticks. Additionally there will be prizes given out from local sponsors such as Mahoney's Outfitters, Mountain Sports Ltd., Nolichucky Hostel, Jackson Kayak, Kokatat, Chaco, and more!

If interested in participating, please come prepared with appropriate footwear, sunscreen, snacks, paddling equipment (if available), rain gear, and chairs. For more information, please contact Jennifer Bradley or visit the event website linked here.

A.T.: Bridges and Rhododendron of Jones Branch, Sunday, June 21, 2015

Contact: Vic Hasler (423-239-0388)

Rating: Easy 3.6 mile in-out hike in the flat bottomland

This day is for a leisurely stroll to enjoy the rhododendron, which will hopefully be in peak bloom. The A.T. in this section follows the meandering Jones Branch proceeding into a forested hollow. The stream is crossed by four wood trail bridges. We'll turn around upon reaching the base of the switchback. This hike was led back in 1999 by Ed Oliver with my three kids participating (then ages 9, 7, 5). Let's meet in Colonial Heights at 1 pm. The drive is straight down I-26, so we can pick up folks at other exits along the way if desired. We'll park at the outfitters on the Nolichucky River by 2 pm. A couple hours or so to wander up and back along the trail will allow everyone to be home by dinnertime.

Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course, June 26 – 28, 2015

Contact: Scott Fisher, 276-698-4644

The Basic SWR Course, sponsored by Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and TEHCC, is one in a series of swiftwater rescue courses offered through the American Canoe Association. The course is led by ACA certified swiftwater rescue and kayak instructor, Scott Fisher, and is designed to teach the recreational paddler basic swiftwater rescue techniques where limited personnel and/or safety gear is available. Scott has provided instruction to hundreds of individuals, paddling clubs, firefighters, rescue personnel, youth camp staff, and local outfitter guides. The clinic will include classroom instruction, river skills and realistic scenarios. Successful completion of this course will prepare you to self-rescue and aid in the rescue of others in whitewater environments.

Cost: \$95; \$85 if already an APEs member; ACA members can further deduct \$5.

Registration and payment deadline is June 20. Register online <u>here</u>. Or click <u>here</u> for more information.

A.T.: Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge, Sunday, June 28, 2015

Contact: William Werner, 423-408-4469

Rating: B/3/C (5 miles round trip, moderate pace, average elevation change for area)

Grassy Ridge, a 6,160-foot summit, is the highest peak near the A.T. with a natural 360° view. Meet at the usual spot in the Ingle's parking lot in Colonial Heights for the 60-mile drive to Carvers Gap. We'll follow the A.T. to the spur trail up to Grassy Ridge. We should be back in town by 7 pm. RSVP to the hike leader if you are interested.

Controlling Invasive Plants along Jones Branch, Friday, July 10, 2015

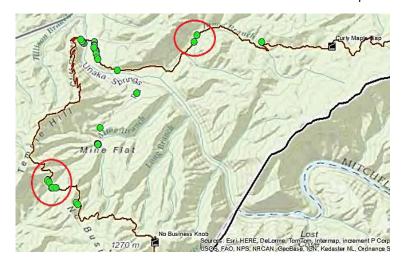
Contact: Vic Hasler (423-239-0388) or Clifton Avery (ATC)

In the rhododendron-filled bottomland along the A.T. corridor in the Jones Branch, infestations of Chinese yam and tree-of-heaven have been observed just short of the second bridge when headed northbound from the outfitters. This event is to control the spread

of these two invasive plants which can grow rapidly to form dense thickets overrunning the native vegetation. The vines and small trees will be pulled and dug. If USFS personnel can join, then larger trees will be cut and the stems painted with herbicide.

Appropriate equipment for the day includes work gloves, boots or sturdy shoes, long pants, shirt (pack one with long sleeves), plus lunch and plenty of water. Safety glasses will be provided if you don't have a pair already.

Let the event leaders know of your interest as car pools will leave at 8 am from both Kingsport, TN (below McDonalds in Colonial Heights) and Asheville, NC (SORO office at 160A Zillicoa Street). Everyone will assembly at the outfitters on the Nolichucky River by 9 am, and then walk roughly 0.75 mile to the infestations. Come for a half-day or longer to help control this invasion!



Note: If the group is large enough and/or quickly wraps up the Jones Branch location, then tree-of-heaven at Temple Hill Gap will also be addressed.

F/B: FunFest "New" Moonlight Hike, Thursday, July 16, 2015

Contact: William Werner, 423-408-4469

Rating: Easy 2.5 mile walk around the lake at night on Lakeside and Holly Trails.

The hike title is because this year's date falls on a "New Moon", thus no chance for moonlight. TEHCC has been co-sponsoring the Kingsport FunFest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park since before 1993. Over the years, this popular event has attracted larger and larger crowds. Parking space is tight up at the center; therefore, in order to control the number of vehicles, this year's Moonlight Hike will again be a ticketed event with only 350 tickets being distributed. However, TEHCC volunteers helping with the event will not be required to have an entrance ticket. To minimize the number of TEHCC cars, if you have fewer than four people, then let's gather at the Eastman lodge back parking lot at 7 pm to carpool (half-hour later than last year which was a bit early). Otherwise, be at the back side of the visitor center facing the lake by 7:30 pm. The hike itself kicks off at 8 pm from the dam near the visitors' center. Bring your own flashlight/headlamp (and spare batteries), water, insect repellant, and charged cell phone. We'll start at the front of the walkers, and then be assigned specific intersections to direct traffic along the right path. Overall, TEHCC needs to cover roughly a dozen places with one or two people each. The event ends with a headcount back at the visitors' center by 10 pm. (Tradition is also a gift certificate to the park store for the volunteer guessing closest to the total number of people who took the hike per the official counter.) If you are interested in assisting with this event or have any questions, please contact me.

Laurel Fork Falls, from Dennis Cove, Sunday, July 19, 2015

Contact: Yancey Appling, 864-508-2754

Rating: Moderate, 2.6 miles

This popular destination is one of the larger waterfalls in the area, with an approach along an old railroad bed followed by a challenging scramble down to the falls. We will meet in Johnson City behind Parkway Discount Wine and Liquor just off I-26 Exit 24 at the intersection of University Parkway and South Roan Street at 1:25 pm and be back by 5:30 pm. Remember to bring water, a snack, sunscreen, appropriate footwear, and clothing suitable for summer hiking. Please contact the hike leader in advance for questions or to sign up for the hike.

For the Record

A.T.: Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob, April 26, 2015

William Werner reporting

The fair-weather hikers stayed away from this short but wet slog up to Tennessee's 37th highest peak. Despite the dark sky, rainfall was light and steady. Unfortunately, low clouds obscured the promised views, but the thick fog and rain sounds lent a soothing atmosphere to this quiet walk in the woods. Besides two other hikers at the trailhead, the only moving creatures were two redspotted newt efts and a group of slate-colored juncos. No other hikers attended.

Sinking Waters Trail, Warriors Path State Park, Sunday, May 17, 2015

R. Blankenbecler reporting

This Sunday afternoon outing was a joint hike with our friends from the Mid-Appalachian Highlands Club (MAHC) from Johnson City. This trail is somewhat off the beaten path at the outskirts of Warriors Path State Park and does not seem to be well-traveled. However, the trail was lush and green and we saw several kinds of wildflowers, including hummingbird vines with their showy trumpet flowers on display. Although a storm cloud threatened during part of the hike, we enjoyed good weather the whole way. The only wildlife we saw was a busy ant colony and a Luna moth! W. McConnell joined the hike leader to represent TEHCC; we enjoyed a pleasant hike and fellowship with six hikers from MAHC.

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, Saturday, May 23, 2015

Vic Hasler reporting

The Overmountain Men today were just my son Clark and I. A large group was encountered who were trying to observe golden-winged warblers in the Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area. The lower part of the route travels farm roads up to steadily higher pastures where ponies and cattle graze. A variety of spring wildflowers were enjoyed, although briars in bloom were clipped back. The trail enters the forest to find another steep logging road up Yellow Mountain reaching the A.T. at the blue blaze to the Overmountain Barn. At the shelter, we saw a dark blue Hard Core shirt from this year's event so had a nice conversation with the father and his two daughters. After admiring the vista and having lunch, we returned by the same route. Hike time was three hours up and two hours down for eight miles overall; thus we were back in Kingsport by 4 pm.





A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Pat Loven **Date:** 3/21/2015

Purpose: First Aid training Location: Kingsport, TN People: Pat Loven

Summary: I completed the Adult First Aid/CPR/AED offered by Red Cross to validate my USFS Sawyer certification. This course

consisted of an online at home portion during the week of March 16 and hands-on classroom training on March 21.

Reporting: Eric Middlemas

Date: 4/2/2015

Purpose: CPR/First Aid training **Location:** Red Cross facility, Bristol, Va

People: Eric Middlemas

Summary: I took online training in CPR/first aid and attended in-class training at the Bristol Red Cross facility. The online training was extensive. I obtained certification to satisfy the sawyer certification requirements.

Reporting: Michael Watts

Date: 4/25/2015

Purpose: Maintain Trail

Location: Section 3a, McQueen's Gap to 2.3 miles north of Low Gap

People: Rick Lott, Scotty Myers, Jim Price, Michael Watts

Summary: We were expecting a rainy day, but the weather cleared up by the time we started. We did clipping, weeding, and removed small blowdowns. The trail is generally in good shape. We saw a handful of thru-hikers who were very appreciative of our trail maintenance.

Reporting: Tim Stewart
Date: 4/25/2015
Purpose: Repair step

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap trailhead

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: Water runoff from the parking area at Carvers Gap washed away the gravel and created a hole in the step. I placed rocks

in the step containment area to prevent the gravel from washing away. I then filled the hole with gravel.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore **Date:** 4/25/2015

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Bradley Gap

People: Lynn DiFiore, Brian Schloff

Summary: We cleaned waterbars, lopped branches, cleared a few minor blowdowns and removed a moderate amount

of trash from the barn and campsites. We made a

preemptive strike on the briars with a swingblade. Drainage around the barn is still an issue as many springs are running. We dismantled numerous fire rings as they are starting to show up everywhere, including in the woods above the barn and several places on Little Hump. We saw only a few thruhikers but many section hikers and a Boy Scout group stayed in the barn. Despite the forecasted 100% chance of rain, we had mostly blue skies and wildflowers were abundant.



Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 4/26/2015

Purpose: Remove blowdown

Location: Section 1, Trail south of TN/VA State Line

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: As I was working in Damascus this past weekend, hikers informed me that there was a new blowdown just south of the

TN/VA state line. I hiked up there and removed it.

Reporting: Jim Foster **Date:** 4/27/2015

Purpose: Flag relocations

Location: Section 16b, Two miles trail north of Iron Mountain Gap

People: Kim Peters, Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: The three of us finished flagging the relocations that we had plotted from Greasy Creek Gap to Iron Mountain Gap. We completed the flagging and used our GPS to record the new proposed relocations. We ended up with a total of 10 which was more than we had originally expected. We were well satisfied with our efforts and hope to see the project brought to conclusion.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 4/28/2015

Purpose: Mow campsite at Overmountain Shelter **Location:** Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the campsite around the shelter and the privy trail. We cleared a 15 to 20 foot wide strip below the campsite for better views down the valley below the campsite. We removed all of the rock and logs, then mowed the extended area. Work is needed near the shelter to divert water under the trail. There are two very wet spots with standing water at this time. The trail to the shelter could use some crush and run. The lower water source needs to be improved prior to the dry season. There is only a stream the size of a pencil going through the pipe.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 4/28/2015

Purpose: Mow the A.T. and the Access Trail **Location:** Section 4b, Osborne Farm **People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We moved the access trail and the A.T. across the Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: 4/30/2015

Purpose: Checkout shelter

Location: Section 12b, Mountaineer Falls Shelter

People: Bob Peoples

Summary: Bob visited Mountaineer Falls Shelter because of hiker reports. He removed an inappropriate business sign from the shelter and has successfully discouraged the business owner from posting again. Recently, 17 hikers were staying at shelter and moved the wooden bear outside to provide more room. Bob put the bear back into the shelter. The wooden sign indicating the shelter from the trail on the south side has been removed from the post. Bob thinks the Slid Hollow campsite needs a sign if it did not have one. He also rediscovered the leaner that Gerald had reported. The trail was in good condition otherwise.

Reporting: Carl Fritz **Date:** 5/1/2015

Purpose: Prepare for Hard Core

Location: Section 13, North of Doll Flats, almost to Hump Mountain

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Jim Chambers, Greg Kramer, Randy Madigan, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart,

George Thorpe

Summary: We continued to flag rehab. Also, we cut locust stakes and continued to debark downed locusts. The crew installed about five steps and did some more rehab. We were in clouds all day and the high temperature was 42. Most of the hikers coming across the Roans in the last couple days could not see more than fifty feet! Hail and sleet were prevalent. It may be a first as we encouraged five cows off Doll Flats and into the pasture with their calves. The bawling suddenly ceased.

Reporting: Pat Loven **Date:** 5/1/2015

Purpose: Maintain Trail

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

People: Pat Loven, Patrick Loven

Summary: We performed routine maintenance on this section today. Work consisted mainly of lopping rhododendron and hand sawing blowdowns. Trail condition is very good. We will need to return in a month or so to address nettle which is getting a good start in a few areas. We will also take a chainsaw to clear a number of smaller 'step overs.' We met 22 hikers today and most all were very appreciative of the Club's hard work.

Reporting: John Robbins

Date: 5/2/2015

Purpose: General Maintenance **Location:** Section 3b, Spring to US 421

People: John Robbins

Summary: An absolutely perfect day on the trail, so I walked from 421 to the Emergency Shelter. I clipped back briars, cleaned water bars, and cleared a couple small blowdowns. I broke up four fire rings, packed out trash from each, and cleaned trash at the trail heads. I met a few day hikers and about 15 thru-hikers. Two, "Mr. Don" and "Beer Man," are maintainers from Maine and were very complimentary of TEHCC's trail work and curious to the lack of privies.

Reporting: Vic Hasler **Date:** 5/2/2015

Purpose: Garlic Mustard Challenge **Location:** Section 20b, Devils Creek Gap **People:** Dan Firth, Vic Hasler, John Odell

Summary: The goal of one pound per trail mile was almost achieved in a single day. Four large, heavy duty trash bags were filled with 129 pounds of blooming garlic mustard plants pulled from along the north-bound trail, at the USFS road crossing and a couple of side spurs, and along a nearby clearing edge. In addition, three smaller bags of aluminum cans for recycling and trash for disposal were hauled out. A steady stream of backpackers passed through this gap — with a few stopping to learn about invasive species. The club will need to return next year to continue breaking the biennial cycle for garlic mustard.

Reporting: Carl Fritz **Date:** 5/2/2015

Purpose: Prepare for Hard Core

Location: Sections 13 and 14a, US 19E to Hump Mountain

People: Carl Fritz, Mary Jane Fritz

Summary: We scouted parking areas near the TN/NC line on 19E. We checked on a picnic shelter in Roan Mountain State Park and delivered some tools to Hampton. We fastened a handrail post on Shook Branch Bridge. Carl added many tasks to our Hard Core task list!

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 5/3/2015

Purpose: Prepare for Hard Core

Location: Section 13 and 14a, North and South of Doll Flats

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I carried up all the stakes that we cut on Thursday that we need for the rehab work above Doll Flats. We now have 60 stakes staged directly on Doll Flats for Hard Core, and approximately 70 stakes staged approximately 3/4 of a mile north of Doll Flats. I also walked the trail south of Doll Flats in order to familiarize myself with what the vision is for that area during Hard Core.

Reporting: Carl Fritz **Date:** 5/5/2015

Purpose: Prepare for Hard Core

Location: Sections 13 and 14a, North and South of Doll Flats

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Jim Floyd, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Becky Kinder, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Ken Murray, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Gayle Riddervold, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, Fritz Swanson,

Georg

Summary: Major task accomplished today was to move twenty 12-foot locust logs from Watauga Lake up towards Hump Mountain from Doll Flats. The last log, I am told, weighed 1600 lbs! We continued prepping the rehab above and below Doll Flats. We saw at least 30 hikers including one south bounder; almost all thanked us for our efforts.

Reporting: Carl Fritz **Date:** 5/7/2015

Purpose: Perpare for Hard Core

Location: Sections 13 and 14a, North and South of Doll Flats

People: Dean Baird, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Jim Floyd, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, Randy Madigan "Solo", and Elaine Mav "Thunder" **Summary:** We added more steps and sidelogs below Doll Flats and prepared more steps for Hard Core. Probably within 1000 feet of open area of Hump Mountain, we rehabbed a couple of bad trail areas with rock steps and a significant rock crib.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 5/9/2015

Purpose: Maintain Trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm **People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds along the A.T. and Accessible Trail across the Osborne Farm. We also restacked the cairns as

needed.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 5/9/2015

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 15b, Hughes Gap to Ashe Gap

People: Jim Chambers, Tim Stewart

Summary: Tim and I removed all the blowdowns between Hughes and Ashe Gap. We removed two small, two large, and two extra

large trees from the trail; and at the same time, we had really positive contact with several thru-hikers. Good week!

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore **Date:** 5/10/2015

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter **People:** Lynn DiFiore, Lyndsey Smith, Eilidh (canine)

Summary: We picked up a moderate amount of trash from the barn, campsite, and Stan Murray Shelter. We lopped branches and used a swingblade to cut annual growth and briars. We cut out a few small blowdowns and removed several small limbs from the trail. There were signs of recent ATV activity on the trail near Buckeye Gap; we sent photos and GPS'd tracks to National Forests in NC. Lots of wildflowers and thru-hikers were out!

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 5/11/2015

Purpose: Fix bog bridge and do general maintenance

Location: Section 12d, North end of section, Campbell Hollow Road to US19E

People: Kevin Sedgwick

Summary: I nailed down loose boards on the first bog bridge south and broke apart two campsites. I cleaned around steps at Buck Mountain Road. Lots of poison ivy and some multiflora rose were growing into the steps; I dug out as much as I could. I cut rose way back in areas south of the church and south of the cemetery. It looks like there's been ATV use on the trail just south of the cemetery.

Reporting: Ken Murray Date: 5/12/2015

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

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

People: Ken Murray, Robert Christianson

Summary: We checked the trail and shelter. We found one small blowdown, but it is easily ducked under. I forgot to take my silkie

saw. I need to take my silkie and wedges on every outing.

Reporting: Carl Fritz **Date:** 5/13/2015

Purpose: Prepare for Hard Core **Location:** Section 13, North of Doll Flats

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, George

Thorpe

Summary: We improved the access road and did some more rehab planning north of Doll Flats.

Reporting: Jim Foster **Date:** 5/13/2015

Purpose: Clean waterbars and remove blowdowns from the trail **Location:** Section 16a, Hughes Gap trail south about 4 miles

People: Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: Bruce and I cleaned waterbars, removed several small trail obstructions, replaced a rotted waterbar, cleaned a small spring, and picked up one piece of trash at Clyde Smith Shelter. The shelter was the cleanest that I've seen it at this time of year. We have two larger blowdowns about 1/2 mile from Greasy Creek Gap that we will go back and remove on Friday. We saw many hikers and received several compliments on the TEHCC trail section.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 5/15/2015

Purpose: Roan Ridgerunner orientation

Location: Section 14c, Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I joined John Odell from ATC and SAHC Roan Stewardship Director Marquette Crockett in an orientation for 2015 Roan Ridgerunner Lee Farese. This year the ridgerunner will combine the education and outreach activities they have had in the past with stewardship work. We walked to Grassy Ridge Bald and back, reviewing various situations the ridgerunner might face. We saw a bald eagle at Grassy Ridge. We clipped brush along the side trail to Grassy Ridge. All posts look OK. Nice work by Mt. Squid at Carvers Gap headingTrail south.

Reporting: Jim Foster **Date:** 5/15/2015

Purpose: Cut blowdowns and do routine maintenance

Location: Section 16a, Greasy Creek Gap to about 1 mile trail north

People: John Tomko, Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: The three of us hand-sawed four pretty large blowdowns and rehabbed the trail where they were down. We also finished cleaning the waterbars from Wednesday's trip. The trail is in good shape and once again we received compliments on the TEHCC section as being the best maintained on the A.T. Kudos to fellow maintainers.

Reporting: Carl Fritz Date: 5/17 - 18/2015 Purpose: Hard Core

Location: Sections 13 and 14a, North and South of Doll Flats

People and Summary: (See previous article)

Reporting: John Robbins
Date: 5/23/2015
Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 3b, Spring to US 421

People: John Robbins

Summary: I spent all day cutting weeds that were high and thick. I didn't get all the way to the spring, so I will need to return. I met about 15 thru-hikers and a scout troop. The Trail is in great shape.

Reporting: Paul Benfield Date: 5/25/2015

Purpose: Mow camping area at Overmountain Shelter

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We moved the camping area at the Overmountain Shelter and the Trails to the water source and privy. We also cleaned the water sources and removed some rocks from the campground.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 5/25/2015 **Purpose:** Mow Trails

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm **People:** Ted Mowery, Paul Benfield

Summary: We moved the Appalachian and Accessible trail across the Osborne Farm and removed the last known graffiti by Hunny

Bunny from the stile. The Trail is beginning to need spraying in places before too long. Lots of hikers were out.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore **Date:** 5/25/2015

Purpose: Cut out blowdown

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Stan Murray

People: Lynn DiFiore, Lyndsey Smith

Summary: We made a quick trip with the chainsaw to cut out a downed tree near Buckeye Gap that could not be handled previously with the hand saw. There were lots of people (and trash) at the barn. We broke up numerous fire rings in the field by the barn and placed a new register. We gave a couple of section hikers and their dog a ride to the hostel, as one was too sick to hike. We ran into a couple on a ATV at the old road that comes up to Buckeye Gap. I asked them not to ride on the trail and reminded them that ATV use is illegal on Forest Service land; but they did not see anything wrong with what they were doing as "they only wanted to bring snacks up to the A.T. for the hikers." I will pass along to NFs in NC and Cherokee NF law enforcement as they are accessing from the TN side.